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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



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Picture ED HILL

MAKING A SONG AND DANCE

The opening of an exhibition focusing on the lives of the Gurkha community in Ashford got underway on Saturday with some traditional Nepalese dancing to bring some sunshine to an otherwise grey day at the town's museum. **FULL STORY - SEE PAGE 2**

■ BY ED HILL

LEADING members of Ashford council are set to collide head-on with Kent County Council chiefs over the hugely controversial proposal to build a massive lorry park in Aldington.

And at a meeting on Saturday of a pressure group set up to fight the proposals, one member of the Ashford executive – Cllr Peter Wood – summed up the plans by saying “they are a knee-jerk reaction drawn up on the back of an envelope with not much thought gone into them”.

Cllr Wood is chairman of the Aldington and Bonnington parish council and one of the leading figures in the newly formed Lorry Park Alliance of villages battling the proposals; first exclusively revealed in Yourashford.

The alliance met in Aldington to rally support at a meeting attended by a number of senior local council figures.

And they warned time is running out to make a stand against the plans.

Weald East councillor Paul Bartlett said although Ashford council recognised the need for a solution to Operation Stack and lorry parking in the area, he did not consider this was the answer.

The panel also felt KCC had not consulted Ashford council enough about the 70-acre site before announcing it as its ‘preferred’ site. The park would see a special slip-road built off the M20 between junctions 10 and 11, accommodating 3,000 vehicles when Operation Stack was implemented.

Cllr Bartlett said he would prefer to see a number of sites placed around the country before lorries even got to Kent. It was also felt that until

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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3 Fenwick Fashion Show where customers can see this season's must haves. See the **leisure channel** @ Yourkenttv.co.uk

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Exhibition to celebrate the Gurkhas

BY ED HILL

TOWNSFOLK were treated to a display of traditional Nepalese dancing at the town's museum on Saturday to help launch a special exhibition celebrating the Gurkhas.

The dance was part of the opening ceremony of an exhibition showing details of Gurkha life both in their homeland and in the British Army.

It is estimated there are now around 900 Gurkhas living in and around the town.

The display includes artefacts from the Gurkha Rifles, based at Shorncliffe barracks in Folkestone.

The Gurkhas' history with the British Army dates back to 1815 and the regiment is still serving in various hotspots around the world including Iraq and Afghanistan. Prince Harry spent his deployment in Afghanistan with a Gurkha regiment.

The exhibition was opened by Ashford MP Damian Green. Before he cut the ribbon a group of Nepalese girls gave a display of traditional dance and a war dance was performed by two young men.

Charles Oliver, chairman of the museum, said: "We became aware there is a growing Gurkha community in the town and we wanted to do something that would help them by creating some publicity. We also felt it gave us the opportunity to put on an interesting exhibition at the museum. The co-operation we have had has been marvellous."

The exhibition includes uniforms and medals from the regiment including the famous Kukri Knives as well as information about Nepalese life.



COMMUNITY: Santosh Ghale is pleased with how welcome he and other Gurkhas have been made to feel in Ashford

The Gurkha community now has its own association to help promote and publicise it in the town.

Its chairman is Santosh Ghale whose military career in the army included deployments in the Balkans and Sierra Leone.

Mr Ghale said: "The exhibition is part of our efforts to feel part of the community of Ashford. We are settling here and making it our home."

"We have been made to feel very welcome from the people of the town; hopefully this will help them understand a little more about our life."

The exhibition will continue throughout the summer. As well as the Gurkha exhibits there are several other new displays including Ashford Children's Day and Kentish Peg Tiles.

The museum is open Monday to Saturday from 10am-1pm and is next to the Tourist Information Centre in the Churchyard.

For more information about the Gurkhas in Ashford see www.gurkha communityashford.co.uk.

'You all need to agitate if you do not want this lorry park'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the moveable barrier system, being introduced on M20 in the summer, was up and running it was too early to say if a lorry park was needed at all.

Cllr Richard Honey, who was also on the panel, said he believed the lorry park was a similar situation to the abandoned development at the village of Wye.

He said if local people aired enough opposition to the park then it could be stopped. He said the situation was unusual because KCC was essentially granting planning permission to itself.

The only voice of support for the park came from landowner Eric Jeanes who currently owns the proposed site. He said Operation Stack was damaging to business and the park would also ease the traffic at junction 10 of the M20.

At the end of the meeting the panel urged residents to get involved by signing a petition and writing and emailing their local representatives. They warned they only had ten days left to make their objections felt.

Rupert Hume Kendall, from the Aldington and Mersham Conservation Trust, rapped a warning to villagers: "You cannot go home and watch TV. You need to agitate if you do not want this park."

A spokesman for Ashford council said until it received a detailed planning application from KCC it was too early to comment.

yourashford

NEWS IN BRIEF

Foundation expands to include fostering

CHILDREN's charity the Caldecott Foundation is expanding its services to include a new fostering service.

Based in Smeeth, the organisation has been involved in childcare for almost a century, looking after vulnerable youngsters who have either suffered abuse or neglect at home.

Erica Eversfield, supervising social worker for the service, said: "It is also an extension of the work that we do with the children here in the residential centre."

For more information contact Jamie Bromfield or Erica Eversfield on 01303 815648 or email fostering@caldecottfoundation.co.uk.

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Fraudster claimed £25,000 in support

Builder had been earning almost £50,000 a year during deception

EXCLUSIVE

BY ED HILL

A BUILDER who deliberately deceived council officials about his benefit claims has pleaded guilty to claiming more than £25,000 worth of council tax and housing benefits – the largest ever case in the council's history.

Ivan Baldock, 47, of The Forstall, Mersham, admitted four counts of benefit fraud on Friday at Ashford Magistrates Court.

Baldock had been deceiving officials for five years.

He had claimed he worked as a labourer for the construction company GSE Ltd and said he only earned £12,688 a year. In fact he was an



experienced site foreman and was earning a salary of £48,360.

Baldock deceived the council by having £700 of his salary diverted as payments to his son each week. By doing so it appeared that he was still below the council's threshold for council tax and housing benefit entitlement.

The case highlights the issues raised by the successful Your Money – Your Loss! campaign run by Yourashford, in co-operation with Ashford council.

Conviction

Paul Bartlett, deputy leader of Ashford council, said: "This is the biggest single case we have secured a conviction against in terms of the money fraudulently claimed. I think most people will be shocked that this person was having his rent and council tax paid by the public purse for five years despite earning high wages."

Baldock consistently denied to council fraud investigators and officials that he was involved

in any wrongdoing. He finally gave in when presented with indisputable facts by the council's fraud team.

Mr Bartlett added: "The council's team has done a superb job in investigating this case and securing a conviction and it should send out a clear message that in the end people who con the system will be caught and punished."

Ashford magistrates told Baldock: "These are serious offences that have been committed over a long period of time. They were deliberate actions and you appear to have no mitigation."

"We have to consider the harm to the victim and on this occasion the victim is the public. You have caused social harm and money being deprived from those who need it."

Baldock is due to be sentenced on Tuesday, April 15.

If you know of anyone who is claiming fraudulently you can call the council's confidential hotline on 08000 262456 and give as much detail as possible. You can also call direct on 01233 330453.

Have your say on rural police

VILLAGERS concerned about policing in their community are invited to attend a police conference at the Ashford International Hotel on April 8.

The conference will give people a chance to put questions to the experts.

Key speakers on the day will include Dr Jim Flegg, a naturalist who was awarded an OBE for his services to horticulture and the environment. He also presented Meridian TV documentary series Country Ways.

Also in attendance will be Kent police Chief Inspector Mark Harrison who has been instrumental in developing policies to fight rural crime.

Ann Barnes chair of the Kent Police Authority said: "This is about listening to the people who live and work in rural areas. I live in a village myself and rural communities have different policing needs. This is a chance for people to have their say and I urge them to take the time to come along and talk to us."

The conference will run from 12.15pm-4pm. To book a place call the Kent Police Authority on 01622 677055.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

yourkenttv.co.uk

Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Check out traditional Nepalese dancing at the Gurkha exhibition

Big challenge for teenager named voice of Flora the Giant

AFTER an extensive audition process and a tough task in making the final decision, two people have been chosen to voice the main roles in a film to promote Singleton's new environment centre.

Emma Frizelle, 17, has been chosen to be the voice of Flora the Singleton Giant, while Alex Fraser, 57, will be the narrator.

More than 100 people had entered the competition to take part in the film, which will highlight the eco-friendly centre which opens later this spring.

The film, called Flora's Tale, is being made by artist Lydia Bevan.

Miss Frizelle said: "This has come as quite a shock; I didn't expect it at all. I'm really looking forward to becoming the voice of a giant."

Alex said: "I was very surprised and honoured to be asked. It's been a lot of fun recording the film."

The eco-friendly Singleton Environment Centre will help promote environmental responsibility in the borough by its use of local and recycled building materials and through features such as sustainable energy techniques and rainwater harvesting.

Beware bogus callers 'from the water board'

POLICE are warning residents to be wary of bogus callers claiming to be from the water board.

The advice follows two incidents that happened recently in Willesborough.

The first incident occurred on March 21 between 1pm and 2pm. A 90-year-old woman saw two men in the back garden of her home in Yeoman Gardens. They claimed they needed to inspect her water supply.

They entered the house and turned on a tap in the kitchen. Then one went to the bathroom to do the same. The lady then saw one of the men in her bedroom.

She challenged him and both men left the house. It is not thought anything was stolen.

The men are described as white, aged 30-35, 5ft 8in tall, stocky build, short dark brown, greasy hair, and

wearing a short dark grey/blue knee length mackintosh.

The second man was white, aged 20, wearing a zip up tracksuit top and a baseball cap, which may be in two colours.

Another incident occurred around the same time at an address in Warren Lane, where a man again claimed he needed to check the water supply. He is described as white, aged 20-30, of average height and wearing a blue horizontally striped top. He was believed to be on foot.

A police spokesman said: "Always ask to see callers' identification. If you are not sure, contact the organisation they claim to represent."

"If you do not want to let them in, ask them to call back when you will have someone with you."

If you have information call police on 01303 289180.

STUDENT SERVICES

Educational and Career Guidance
Student Funding



Funding Roadshows Need help to fund a college course?

You could be entitled to one of the following:

- Educational Maintenance Allowance (16 – 18 year olds)
- Adult Learning Grant (19+)

or help with

- Home to College travel expenses
- Childcare costs
- Tuition fees
- Course Equipment

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Folkestone Wednesday 14th May 2008 10am - 4pm
Dover Thursday 15th May 2008 10am - 4pm

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Dodgy cash hits shops

IT is feared the town may have been targeted by counterfeiters following a spate of suspicious £20 notes reported by petrol stations and small businesses.

Among the reports of the dodgy cash being exchanged were a number at the Ashford Retail Park in Sevington.

Police have warned businesses to be vigilant and to check the feel and colour of any notes if they suspect they are not genuine. If you are given a counterfeit note you can report it to police on 01303 289180.

Author makes the list

THE novel *Darkmans* by Nicola Barker has been shortlisted for another prestigious literary prize.

Much of the 838-page epic is set in Ashford, and hit the headlines last year after being nominated for the Booker Prize. The book has now been included on the shortlist of the Ondaatje prize – an award given annually by the Royal Society of Literature. Top prize is £10,000. The winner of the award will be named on Monday, April 28.

Electric bike stolen

AN electric bike, worth £800, has been taken from Maunsell Place in Newtown.

The black electric pushbike, which had a large sticker on the side with the words 'Giant Suede', as well as a black mesh basket on the front and a white metal basket on the back was taken on March 19 between 8.30am and 10.50am.

If you have information call PC Laker on 01303 389180.

Back our bid to clean up the streets

■ BY ED HILL

NEXT time you drop a crisp packet or throw a banana skin out of your car window you will be adding to a problem which costs us all an estimated £1million a year.

Now the pressure of cleaning up our streets is becoming part of our latest campaign – designed to clean-up the borough to make it a nicer place to live and alleviate a strain on the public purse.

In co-operation with Ashford council, Yourashford is throwing its weight behind the Keep Ashford Tidy Campaign which will run throughout April and May.

According to council chiefs, more than 32,000 refuse sacks of litter – equating to a remarkable 1,400 tonnes – was collected from our streets last year alone.

And the £1m it cost to clear up could have been used to finance ten children's play areas or three youth centres. Not to mention the cost having to be added to each and every one of our council tax bills. What's more, if you're caught dropping litter – you could be hit with a punishment as it is an offence.

Cllr Neil Bell, portfolio holder for environmental services, said: "Trying to keep the borough clean is a bit like trying to paint the Forth Bridge. As fast as we clean up, the litter is back.

"It is one of the council's biggest costs each year which will only increase as we take responsibility for new housing developments. We want to live in a clean, pleasant borough but the council cannot achieve this alone – we need everyone's help. Please take a moment to find a litter bin. If there isn't one to hand, hang on to your litter until you can find one or take it home."

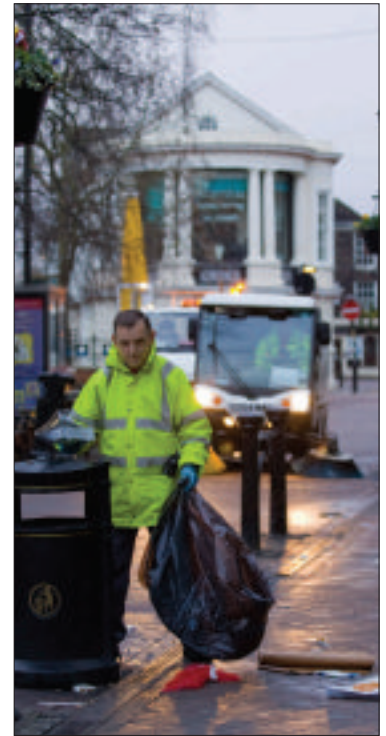
At present on the new estates around the town such as Orchard Heights, Chartfields and Knights Park, the responsibility for cleaning up litter is born by the developers.

But before long it will be added to the council's clean-up bill.

High on the hit list to be tackled are the problems caused by graffiti, dog fouling, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles. In addition to clamping down on fast-food waste, drink cans, crisp packets and chewing gum frequently ditched on our streets.

Some of the worst offenders are motorists. According to the council 90 per cent of the rubbish found in the countryside has been thrown out of a car window.

To report incidents such as fly tipping and graffiti go to www.ashford.gov.uk/litter or call 01233 331111.



COSTLY: Litter clearing is an expensive business

Keep Ashford Tidy

IT COSTS £1MILLION
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Frightening Facts

- 90% of all litter found in our countryside and villages has been thrown from a vehicle
- 600 sacks of litter collected from the borough's streets every day
- 100 sacks collected from Tenterden each week
- 19 tonnes of litter collected from Ashford High Street a year

Litter Bin Facts

- The council empties 707 litter bins across the borough
- The average litter bin costs around £200
- Last year the council bought 80 more litter bins

Top Ten Litter Offenders

- Fast food waste and packaging (burgers, pizzas, kebabs etc.)
- Plastic sandwich containers
- Drink cans
- Plastic drink bottles
- Sweet wrappers
- Crisp packets
- Cigarette butts
- Fruit – apple cores, banana skins, orange peel
- Chewing gum
- Plastic bags





DIAL-A-DOCTOR: Patients will be able to speak to real doctors and nurses at the end of a phone

Out-of-hours doctors to increase as town continues to grow

COUNCIL chiefs have been assured out-of-hours on-call doctors will increase to cope with the demand as the town's population continues to boom.

With new homes springing up there have been concerns the current set-up would put a strain on the existing service.

But health officials say the existing service will increase as the population grows and that a merger between providers in the east of the county should ensure an even better service.

At a meeting with Ashford council last week, Gilly Wilford and Michelle Ford from the Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust reassured councillors that the current system is working well.

At present out of hours services are provided by the private health firm South East Health for most of the borough of Ashford with a telephone service also being run by On Call Care from the Ivy Court centre in Tenterden.

As of yesterday, April 1, South East Health will be merging with another out-of-hours health provider, Stour Care, to cover the areas of Ashford, Shepway and Swale.

The system is funded on a per capita basis and should expand in line with the expansion of Ashford.

■ BY ED HILL

sion of Ashford.

A spokesman for the trust said: "Patients will speak to real doctors and real nurses. Most of the enquiries are dealt with through a triage system. If a problem is very serious an ambulance will be sent."

In 2006, the council had been concerned about changes being made to out-of-hour health services, including a pilot scheme of a new walk-in service at the William Harvey Hospital.

However, Mrs Ford said that walk-in centres at hospital accident and emergency departments have always been part of the plan and the system had been working well for two years.

The first point of contact for people out-of-hours is on the phone. If people have a medical enquiry they are directed to a call centre staffed by call handlers and nurses on Orbital Park. If their problem seems more serious they are then put through to a GP.

There are also two cars covering the Ashford area manned by doctors who can be sent to patients if needed.

The Trust says that 65 per cent of out-of-hours health enquiries are dealt with over the phone.

Benefits Olympic teams will bring

IN the latest of an exclusive series of video interviews with Yourashford, our local MP Damian Green discusses the benefits of attracting international teams to the town ahead of the 2012 London Olympic Games.

The Tory MP speaks to our reporter, Ed Hill, in a special interview available via our free, broadband website www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

He gives his views on the prospect of a number of venues in the borough bidding to host Olympic teams – and what it could mean to the town.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Rod Stewart charity night will be hot stuff

IF you think Rod Stewart is sexy, why not make your way down to the Raja of Kent Restaurant in Tenterden on June 11?

Paul Metcalf, the country's leading Rod Stewart tribute act, will be putting on a special performance in aid of Hi Kent, the charity dedicated to the deaf and hard of hearing.

The evening will also include a meal with a wide range of Indian starters plus three main courses.

Mr Metcalf will be performing all Rod's top hits and more, including Maggie May, Tonight's The Night, Sailing, Hot Legs, Do Ya Think I'm Sexy and You Wear It Well.

Hi Kent chief executive John Clayton said: "Tickets are selling fast and we hope the dinner will sell out and help us raise much-needed funds."

Ticket price is £26 per person, which includes a £3 donation to Hi Kent. A vegetarian option is available and English food on request.

To book tickets, or for further information, phone 01622 691151.

Set a date for wedding fayre at the Holiday Inn

THE Holiday Inn Hotel in Canterbury Road will be holding a wedding fayre on Sunday, April 6.

Couples will be able to take a look at services provided by local firms such as florists, wedding dress makers and photographers.

Dulce Domingues from the hotel said: "The day will run from 10am-3pm. Entrance is free for all our guests. Everyone will get a bag when they register with vouchers and information about what is happening. It is a good chance for local couples to come and take a look at what is available."

For more information visit www.elhevents.co.uk.

Have a wild time at Port Lympne music event

A STRING of big names are set to descend on Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in July for one of the region's biggest music festivals.

Zoo Thousand and Eight is expecting around 20,000 people to catch acts such as Athlete, The Cribbs and Funeral for a Friend for a three-day event running from July 4-6.

A donation to the Aspinall Foundation will be made with each ticket that is sold. The money will be used to help the foundation's breeding programmes of rare animals such as the Black Rhino, Siberian and Indian Tigers.

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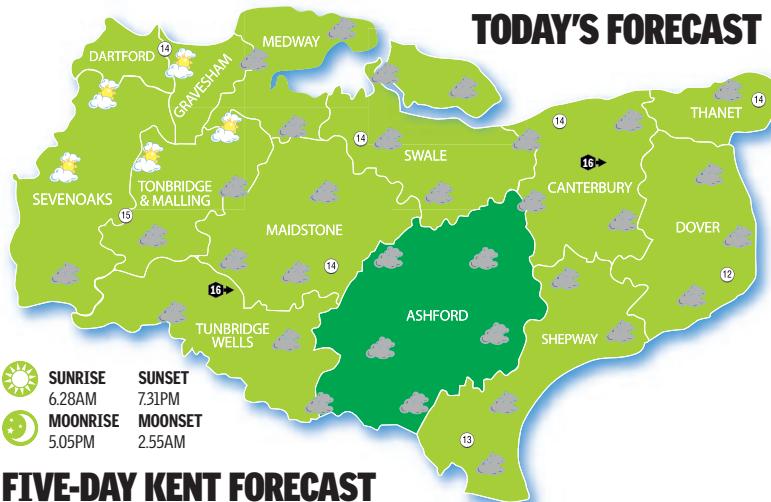
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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	11:42am	5.4m
	Sunday	12:29pm	5.8m
Dover	Saturday	10:00am	5.8m
	Sunday	10:38am	6.2m
Dungeness	Saturday	10:03am	6.5m
	Sunday	10:46am	7.1m
Ramsgate	Saturday	10:30am	4.4m
	Sunday	11:08am	4.7m
Sheerness	Saturday	11:31am	5.2m
	Sunday	12:18pm	5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	11:37am	4.9m
	Sunday	12:24pm	5.1m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	11°C	Madrid	14°C
Athens	17°C	New York	6°C
Barcelona	18°C	Paris	10°C
Beijing	15°C	Rome	17°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	24°C
Cape Town	29°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	11°C	Tokyo	6°C
Gibraltar	18°C	Vancouver	7°C
Hong Kong	21°C	Warsaw	14°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	17°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	15°C	15°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	Gravesend	14°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	11°C
Canterbury	14°C	13°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	Maidstone	14°C	14°C	14°C	13°C	11°C
Chatham	13°C	13°C	12°C	12°C	11°C	Ramsgate	14°C	13°C	12°C	11°C	10°C
Dartford	14°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	11°C	Rochester	13°C	13°C	12°C	12°C	11°C
Dover	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C	9°C	Sevenoaks	12°C	13°C	13°C	12°C	10°C
Faversham	13°C	13°C	12°C	12°C	11°C	Sittingbourne	13°C	13°C	12°C	12°C	11°C
Folkestone	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C	9°C	Tonbridge	14°C	14°C	14°C	13°C	12°C
Gillingham	13°C	13°C	12°C	12°C	11°C	Tun Wells	14°C	14°C	14°C	13°C	12°C

Will your business sign up for Sunday?

THE Ashford Town Centre Partnership is encouraging more businesses in the town to open for Sunday trading.

It has launched its Sign Up for Sunday campaign and says with the arrival of the new extension to the County Square shopping centre, many more businesses are choosing to open on both days of the weekend.

According to national statistics, Sunday is the second busiest trading day of the week. And town chiefs believe having all traders open their doors will greatly enhance Ashford's reputation as a shopping destination.

If your business can benefit, and you would like to be highlighted in the partnership's Sign up to Sunday campaign call 01233 664410 or email info@ashfordtcp.co.uk

Origins get award for its eco-style

A NEW housing development in the town has won a gold award for its green credentials

The Origins development built by Ward Homes – part of the Barretts Group – is a development of 21 homes in Falcon Way.

The award was given at the Hot Property magazine New Homes award ceremony. The developer was praised for designing an eco-friendly scheme without compromising on style.

All the houses in the development have been reserved by homebuyers.

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ONLY £1250

Whole House Loop Pile

on Felt Back

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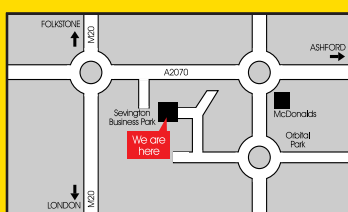
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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

EDITH ROBSON



Q How long have you lived in Ashford?

A When we moved here it was our fifth house in eight years. I only expected to remain for two but it has been 19.

Q What do you think of the changes that are happening to the town?

A Like everyone else I become frustrated by the traffic delays and construction work. But it is a bit like changing your kitchen. If you want the improvements you have to put up with the work.

Q What would you say to the accusation that Eurostar has never really wanted an international station at Ashford?

A I believe the international station was a reward for putting up with all the disruption caused by the building of the high-speed line. It is an excellent railway hub serving a very wide area of need. I occasionally have to take the plane if I wish to accompany my husband on his travels. I much prefer the train. My father was the original Fat Controller and my grandfather drove steam engines, so trains are in my blood. I love the Eurostar and am as excited on each new trip as I was on my first one.

Q Do you think it is possible to get them to change their minds regarding the Brussels service?

A I do hope so. We need trains which will suit both tourists and business people, who, pro-rata, bring in a great deal of money to the

company. After deductions for Channel Tunnel access, one £150 ticket could bring in forty times the cash left from a two-for-the-price-of-one cheap ticket. The Brussels trains were also the ones that stopped at Lille. I have seen the carriage half empty there and then fill up again. University staff swap with those in Canterbury, there are businesses accessed in each direction, it is a popular short trip destination and many people use Lille to catch the TGV all over Europe.

Q You spend much of your time in Europe. How would you describe your relationship with the continent?

A I am a gregarious Scot. When I was a student at St Andrews it took a day to get to London so you had to stay overnight, making it very expensive, before taking a train and boat just to get across the Channel. As a French specialist I was very envious of English students from the south who spent their summer holidays working as au pairs in Calais or on the hovercraft and coming home at the weekend for mum to do the washing. At 18 I managed to spend a fortnight with a French/Scottish couple living in the Parisian suburbs but my first experience of coping on my own was whilst studying for a term at the University of Rennes in 1967. It was a three-mile walk into town for lectures and I was shocked to encounter war wounded on every street. I met a student who took me to hear Alain Stivell the Celtic harp player at a concert. We still keep in touch.

For my year in a French speaking country I

was a bit more adventurous and taught English as a foreign language in a French lycee (a public secondary school) in Laos, Asia, with VSO. All lessons were delivered in French. Can you imagine how difficult it was for pupils whose first language was a bit like Chinese? I managed to visit Ankor Wat in Cambodia which was incredible. While in Phnom Penh, I heard the news of the first man on the moon. I am not that adventurous after all.

My husband is currently based in Brussels as secretary general of an international group with 11 member countries and he visits all of them by train if possible.

By contrast to all this rushing around, we are fortunate to have a home in the Dordogne. There we can still escape from traffic, TV and computer or even newspapers, and just potter in the garden or play petanque.

We have made many friends here through the Twinning Association. Visits are always wonderful with many laughs especially when you make a daft mistake with the language or try to explain something that is not in the dictionary. I learn something new each time. It certainly beats sitting at home watching the goggle box.

Q Do you have any hobbies or interests people might be surprised to learn about?

A I was a member of a drama group in Kirkcaldy, acting and producing and met my husband when he moved north from Colchester and came to our one act play at a festival.

Q & A

Edith Robson talks to reporter **Ed Hill** about her campaign to reinstate Ashford International's Eurostar services and why she believes the town was betrayed by the decision to cut routes from the station

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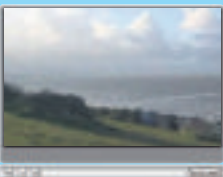
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We chat to double gold medal-winning runner Dame Kelly Holmes on board a ferry for Sports Relief



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Howletts keeper Donna Honey talks about raising a baby gorilla with bottle feeding and even nappy changing

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Superheroes wanted for Invicta FM Fun Run

Don your tights, cape and mask to help raise money for charity

THE very first Invicta FM Superheroes Fun Run and Walk will take place around the grounds of The Hop Farm, near Paddock Wood, on Sunday, April 20.

Everyone taking part will be expected to come dressed as a superhero such as Superman, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, Catwoman, Batman or Robin.

You are free to make your own costume or hire one and there will be prizes for the best costumes.

The run, which covers three miles, will begin at 11am and has been organised to help raise funds for Invicta FM's two charities, Help A Kent Child and The Myasthenia Gravis Association.

Help A Kent Child is Invicta FM's own charity which aims to give the same opportunities to Kent children and young people who experience poverty and disadvantage or who are experiencing abuse, neglect, homelessness, violence and crime as well as those who have an illness or disability.

The Myasthenia Gravis Association is a charity with a network of local branches whose aims are to provide care and education for people with MG, to support research to improve diagnosis and treatment and to raise public and medical awareness of the neglected disorder.

MG is a rare disease that can strike at any age. Its hallmark is fluctuating muscle weakness which is often severe and sometimes



fatal. It is often known as the rag doll illness.

The event will be officially started by an Invicta FM presenter and anyone can take part (youngsters under 12 must be accompanied by an adult), so why not get a team together of your friends, family and colleagues?

Plenty of time will be allowed, so if you are not able to run all the way then you can complete the event in your own time. Everyone who completes the event will be presented with a unique medal to wear to show off to their sponsors.

To take part, just complete the entry form and send it in as soon as possible along with your entry fee of £10 per person (children £5).

In return, we will send you full info about the day including directions, times and how to come prepared to save the world!

Most importantly we will also send you some sponsor forms to start raising those vital funds straight away.

You can also enter on line at invictafm.com by completing the form and sending your entry fee.

If you wish to raise your sponsorship online then go to www.justgiving.com to set up your own personalised page which you can then email to colleagues, family and friends.

invictafm FUN RUN ENTRY FORM

If you are part of a team please get each team member to fill in their own entry form and fill in the team name and captain below.

Please print in block capitals (photo copy if required)

Full name.....

Address

..... Postcode

Phone number.....

Email.....

Age (if under 18)

Parents authority (12 - 17 years) (under 12s must be accompanied by an adult)

I enclose my entry fee of £..... (adults £10, under 12s £5)

Team name.....

Team captain.....

I pledge to raise as much sponsor money as possible by taking part in this event. The highest fundraisers will win a special tour of the Invicta FM studios!

I confirm that I am physically fit enough to participate in this event ☐ (please tick)

Signature..... Date

The information you provide is protected under the Data Protection Act and will only be used for the purpose it was given.

Have you any special reason for taking part?

Please send completed form to:

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We have a hand in hospital cleanliness



■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

HAND hygiene is vital if a zero tolerance approach to superbugs is to be achieved, a Conservative frontbencher has said.

Greg Clark, the MP for Tunbridge Wells, said he was delighted to back KOS Media's Clean, Safe, Healthy campaign to combat healthcare-acquired infections in Kent.

He said: "Never has there been so much concern about infection in our hospital wards and never again will we have such a great opportunity locally to take lasting action against killer diseases such as Clostridium difficile and MRSA."

Mr Clark has joined KOS Media, publisher of this paper, and NHS trusts across the county, in the campaign to raise awareness and show that everyone can help NHS staff in their fight against infections simply by washing their hands with soap and water regularly, and using the alcohol provided in hospitals.

The shadow minister for the Cabinet Office said health secretary Alan Johnson's announcement in Parliament last week that approval had been given for a new Private Finance Initiative hospital in west Kent was tremendous news.

"This state-of-the-art hospital will catapult local hospital facilities into the 21st century,



ZERO TOLERANCE: Greg Clark MP encourages hand washing to help keep hospitals clean safe and healthy

while the single-roomed accommodation – replacing the often cramped and unsuitable conditions in our hospitals at present – will perhaps provide the greatest advance against infection that it is possible to take," he said.

Mr Clark praised work undertaken so far at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust's Maidstone, and Kent and Sussex, hospitals in the wake of the damning Healthcare Commission report into two outbreaks of C diff that killed 90 patients.

"Action in the aftermath of the C diff tragedy has also been impressive. New director of infection prevention and control Dr Sara Mumford and her team have made sig-

nificant advances, and I am delighted to see the improvements already being made in reducing infection rates.

"But we must not be complacent," he said. "General cleanliness – washing hands before visiting hospitals and using the alcohol hand-wash – is essential if the 'zero tolerance' of infection that I and others have called for is to become a reality.

"We all have a responsibility in hospital to ensure that infection is not spread."

He added: "I congratulate KOS Media on this campaign and urge everyone to be Clean, Safe and Healthy as we look forward to a new era of hospital services in the county."

Abuse of NHS staff will not be tolerated

A BID to reduce abuse of NHS staff has been launched after shocking statistics showed 1,870 workers in Kent have been physically assaulted by patients in the last three years.

"Your Choice of Treatment" targets people who are abusive to health professionals with a clear message – if you choose to assault NHS staff, you will face prosecution and possibly prison.

It is backed by health providers, the county council and the police, as well as players and officials from Gillingham FC. Adverts will soon be carrying the message.

Assaults are often carried out by individuals under the influence of alcohol or drugs, but this makes no difference to how they are treated by the courts.

Richard Hampton, director of the NHS Security Management Service, which is running the campaign, said: "Anecdotally we know those who assault our staff are often drunk or under the influence of drugs.

"This is no defence for such behaviour. The choice is yours – whether you are frustrated, drunk or on drugs, you will be held accountable for your actions. You could end up before the courts or in prison."

The campaign is part of a national bid to crack down on the problem, which has seen a marked increase in recent years.

Graham Gibbens, of Kent County Council, said: "We are all taking a stand against the abuse of NHS staff and raising the profile of this issue in a united way. Abuse of NHS staff must stop."

Groups most at risk include accident and emergency staff, paramedics and ambulance drivers.

Supt Peter Wedlake added: "All reported assaults are taken seriously by police and we will ensure anyone who commits this crime is dealt with and brought before the courts. This can ultimately lead to a prison sentence.

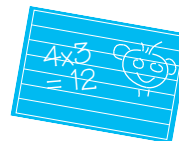
"Although we realise people are often in stressful situations within hospital environments, this is no excuse or reason to vent their frustration or upset staff who are there to help them."

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BREAK TIME



Snowdon challenge for young students

STUDENTS at the Towers school have returned from a recent trip to the mountains of Snowdonia.

The week of outdoor activities saw 28 Year 8 students work together on activities designed to help personal development and teambuilding.

The children spent their time at the Kent Mountain Centre. This was the sixth time the school has organised a trip to use the facilities at the centre.

The trip gave the students the chance to take part in many new experiences including abseiling, hiking, climbing, and kayaking.

Experiencing war time

CHILDREN from two schools got a taste of wartime life when they visited the Dover Museum recently.

The schools were Pluckley Primary School and Tenterden Junior School.

The visits were arranged as part of the World War Two festival held in the town.

Pupils were introduced to the world of ration books, air raid wardens and wartime recycling.

Adults and pupils dressed in 1940s style, and took part in a range of activities over the two days.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your own video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

Children parade their bonnets and enjoy chocolatey delights

■ BY ED HILL

THE Linden Grove Primary School in Stanhope Road has a tradition of going to town when it comes to Easter, and this year was no exception.

In the week running up to the holiday they were kept busy on several Easter projects.

Firstly, children were visited by the Easter bunny who gave out chocolate eggs.

The primary school not only educates 4-11-year-olds, it also has nursery education that looks after 3-4 year-olds.

And keeping with the Easter theme, Key Stage Two children aged 7-11 took part in a science project involving eggs and gravity.

Rebecca Laslett from the school said: "The children do the egg dropping event each year."

"We hold a competition, each child has to design and make their own parachute. They are marked on two categories, firstly how well their parachute flies and secondly, if it hits the ground without cracking the egg. Luckily we take the precaution of hard boiling them first."

Some of the more advanced designs included the use of cotton wool and bubble wrap to help protect the eggs from the hard surface of the playground and many survived the drop without breaking.

Ms Laslett added: "The children were not told they could not use these things so they were using their ingenuity."



BONNY: The Key Stage One children made their own Easter bonnets for an afternoon parade in front of parents

Key Stage One children also took part in an Easter bonnet event in front of parents.

The pupils were given materials to design and make their own Easter bonnets, then on the Thursday afternoon the children performed songs and displays in front of proud

parents. They were joined by their fellow pupils and older brothers and sisters.

Ms Laslett added: "Both these events are traditionally held every year at the school. The hall was absolutely full with parents and older brothers and sisters."

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yourashfordblogger

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Running off at the mouth about London Marathon

IT'S coming up to that time of year again, when do-gooders decide to tramp the streets of London and make the rest of us feel bad as we watch from the sofa recovering from a skinful of lager and a dodgy chicken balti from the night before.

Yes, April 13 is London Marathon day. Don't get me wrong, I think it is admirable that people want to run their legs off in the aid of charity. Good luck to them, if they want to challenge themselves and their bodies to the ultimate in athletic endeavour. However, I could do without all the razzamatazz that comes with the event. All those wacky costumes make me reach for the remote. I would rather watch 24-hours of Last of the Summer Wine (or UKTV Gold as it's otherwise known) than that.

Every year the BBC seems obliged to cover the marathon. You can see the desperation on that wee Scottish gnome's face, Hazel Irvine,

as she desperately accosts some numpty wearing a Kiss Me Quick hat, diving flippers and a sponge model of a kangaroo on his back. You can tell she is praying he can manage to string a few words together. "My mates all think I'm mad" they usually say. Yes, mad, and if he actually has real friends they all probably hope he will end up in the bottom of Victoria Dock - running with the fishes.

I mean a sport can't be that interesting when the highlight is watching a woman urinate by the side of the road as happened to Paula Radcliffe a few years ago.

Perhaps, even worse is the desperate need to catch one of the celebs as they run by. Because we all know that they are the only really interesting entrants, not Alan from St Albans running for Cancer Research. No, it's vital that we hear what Gordon Ramsay has to spout about from his lumpy face or that bloke from EastEnders who works in the café.

My hate of the marathon has less to do with the event itself rather than what the people are actually doing. I mean running, it's not really a

sport; it's just an extension of an everyday need to be mobile. Lets face it, over the millennia, man has tried very hard to do everything he possibly can to avoid running; getting on a horse or a camel or devising the wheel and peddling a bike; even inventing the internal combustion engine. There is a deep-seated need in the human psyche to avoid running.

I hate it. When I was at school and we had to do cross country runs I would do anything to avoid it. Even resort to self harm. By a strange quirk of fate (or more probably because I always had my fingers stuck up it), I could make my nose bleed at will. "Sorry sir I can't do the run; not in this condition." Of course I nearly died of anaemia by the end of term but it was worth it.

Actually, the reason I really hate the marathon is that I know I haven't got the guts to do it myself, but I'm quite happy to give someone else ten quid to do it for me.

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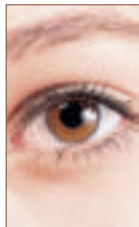
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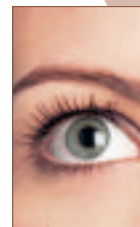


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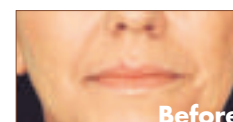
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TALK TIME

JULIE COLE

The store manager of curtain retail giant Paul Simon, based on the Gallagher Retail Park on Norman Road, Julie Cole, speaks about the issues impacting on the town.



How long has the store been here?

We have been here since last August, but we have been in Ashford for six or seven years. Before we moved here we were in Sevington. This is an improved larger store for us.

How do you find working in Ashford?

I live in Maidstone but I don't mind the travelling to and fro. Although I was involved in Operation Stack recently which was atrocious. To get to work for 9am I was having to leave Maidstone at 7am.

What do you think of the idea of the lorry parks?

If it solves the problem I'm all for it. Obviously, not everyone will be happy because it is going to take some of the greenbelt. But you have to find a solution. I mean the last one went on for 14 days; that can't carry on.

Do fashions change in interior design?

You are always getting the colours that change from time to time. But I think it really depends on the sort of house people have and people wanting to get onto the property ladder. When they get their home they want to invest in it. It depends on people's tastes. If they have a traditional home then they need that kind of period look. If they have a more modern home then they need that style. We always have to keep the full range.

Do you have any hobbies?

I like reading true life stories such as those written by David Pelzer. They are the sort of stories that people can get some benefit from. I also enjoy sewing and DIY. I have just finished building my own kitchen. I enjoy a hands-on approach and getting stuck in to a project.

YOUR LETTERS

'Experiment' ruined MP's comments

Good to see our MP Damian Green proving he is so in touch with youth culture (Tory backs increase in alcopop tax, Yourashford, March 26).

It made my blood boil when he said "I tried one myself as an experiment – they are disgusting". Of course he's entitled to his opinion, and I'm sure there is an issue about such drinks aimed so fairly and squarely at young drinkers. But to describe tasting one as 'an experiment' – how patronising!

All he has to say is he tried one and didn't like it. Job done. Unfortunately, that quote spoilt what were sensible views.

Karen Wells
Kennington



Plans will put us best placed for bad traffic

While the focus has always been on junction ten of the M20, how long before junction nine feels the weight of extra traffic too?

With plans for a new medical



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centre going through the planning process and now all the work on further developing the Eureka Place site (Pub and shops line up for Eureka site,

Yourashford, March 26), as well as plans to extend the cinema, I fear the worst.

If both of our M20 access and exit routes are snarled up with

traffic, how much damage will that cause our oft-heard claim of being 'Best Placed in Britain'?

Mark Nelson
Via email

Lorry park is a vital solution to Stack

While I sympathise with the residents of Aldington, Smeeth and Sellindge over plans to build a lorry park near their homes, surely it has to go somewhere?

Wherever it goes, someone, somewhere will have a problem with it. In this age of Operation Stack – which causes headaches for tens of thousands of us – it is a necessary evil I'm afraid.

Name and address withheld

Get free bullying at schools factsheet

Many of your readers will be familiar with the issue of bullying in schools.

School toilets are recognised as a hotspot for bullies. A recent survey from the UK Youth Parliament showed 40 per cent of pupils feared the behaviour of other students in school toilets.

Many believe it is possible to "design out" bullying from toilets. I have written a free factsheet which brings together specialist knowledge to help schools make the right decisions when planning new toilets and washrooms.

Entitled "Reducing the impact of bullying and anti-social behaviour in school toilets and washrooms", the factsheet can be obtained from schooltoilets@wallgate.com or School Toilets Factsheet, Wallgate Limited, Crow Lane, Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 0HB.

Jan Donovan
Author, via email

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LINDSTRAND AeroPlatforms which owns and operates the HiFlyer at Leeds Castle near Maidstone, is giving readers a chance to win one of ten pairs of flight tickets.

Today, everybody wants to be able to see their world from above and now you have the chance to rise above 'the most beautiful castle in the world' and enjoy stunning views of the Kent countryside. It is a fun and safe experience for all the members of the family and for

all ages to enjoy.

The Leeds Castle HiFlyer is sited near the ticket office, shop and café entrance to the castle gardens.

The HiFlyer is a 72m (236ft) circumference Helium – a safe and inert gas-filled balloon that carries a gondola to transport a maximum of 30 passengers and the pilot on each flight. It holds its full EASA and Civil Aviation Authority licence to fly.

The balloon, tethered to the ground through a cable, rises silently and gently up to 120m (400ft) above the countryside, then the powerful 10-tonne underground winch rewinds the cable to lower the HiFlyer back on to its landing pad.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to

HiFlyer comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.
Closing date is April 15, 2008.

Question: Leeds Castle is near which major Kent town?

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If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

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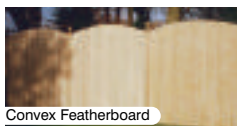
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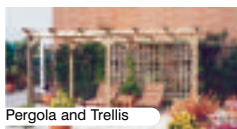


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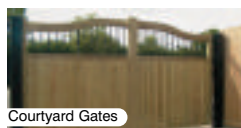


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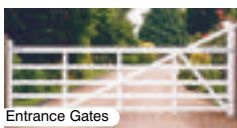


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EDUCATIONAL: Gervase Phinn will entertain with an amusing selection of anecdotes from his life as a writer, broadcaster and teacher

Back to school with Gervase

The affable Yorkshireman shares some gems from his life in education

AN EVENING WITH GERVASE PHINN

Wednesday, April 30
The Orchard Theatre, Dartford



DUBBED "the James Herriot of schools", best-selling author Gervase Phinn will be sharing his hilarious tales of life in education.

An Evening with Gervase Phinn sees the writer, broadcaster and former school inspector revealing some of the most amusing anecdotes from his lengthy career. Best known for his five autobiographical novels, starting with *The Other Side of the Dale*, the affable Yorkshireman is bursting with enthusiasm for his subject.

"I started jotting down things about children when I started teaching," he said. "I have about 50 notebooks full of the blunt things they've said. Once, a child of six looked at me and said 'have you ever thought that when I'm 21, you'll probably be dead?' I've always collected these little gems."

Phinn, 61, started teaching in a

Rotherham comprehensive and went on to teach in state schools for the next 15 years, before becoming an education adviser and school inspector.

His hugely popular novels have sold more than 750,000 copies and he is now embarking on his seventh theatre tour. Working as a freelance lecturer, broadcaster and writer, he is still involved in education - other roles include consultant for the Open University, Honorary Fellow at St John's College, York, and the Fellow and Visiting Professor of Education at the University of Teesside.

Innocence

The enormous appeal of his books lies, Phinn believes, in the innocence of childhood and their gentle humour.

"They are life-affirming stories and not offensive," he said. "I received eight or nine letters this morning and one was from a woman suffering from cancer. She said that my books just lifted her spirits. They are all about the joys of children, the funny and sometimes quite poignant things they say."

The tour is already proving popular, reportedly outselling Motorhead at one venue. Phinn insisted that

audiences will not be subjected to a lecture about the education system, but he does have his concerns.

"I'm very optimistic about young people and I feel sad that when they get good results, the papers say exams are too easy," he said. "I don't think that. I'm also sad when teachers get bombarded with paperwork. All the league tables and so on, it takes them away from what they're trying to do. They should be left alone to teach."

As a father of four, Phinn believes his insight into school life helped him to raise happy and well-adjusted children. Now living in Japan, China, Geneva and Bermuda, his grown-up kids make him very proud.

"We've always encouraged them to follow a dream and be adventurous," he said. "I'm amazed by them. They all went to comprehensives. As a teacher, I wanted parents to say to me what I said to my children's head teachers - 'if you have any problems with them, contact me immediately because they'll be in twice as much trouble at home'."

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £15. Call the box office on 01322 220000 or book online at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.



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with
JANE CONNOLLY
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PICTURE: KENT TOURISM ALLIANCE

CHILDREN can look forward to a week of exciting activities at Dover Castle during the Easter holidays.

The castle will be hosting a week of family fun, with the emphasis firmly on dressing up and clowning around. It promises to be a thrilling time, with visitors being offered the chance to take part in some adventurous and nerve-wracking activities.

For those who long to try

DOVER CASTLE

Monday to Friday, April 7-11
Dover Castle



their hand at some old-fashioned swashbuckling, there will be opportunities to learn stage combat and duelling, or to have a go with a cross-bow. Anyone who is not feeling quite so adventurous can watch someone else braving the bed of nails and eating fire. Learn how to clown

around in the circus skills workshop and even perform in a play.

The castle also has exciting wartime tunnels and the chance to learn about its role in warfare through the ages.

The event will run from 10am to 5pm daily. Admission costs £10.30/£8.20 for adults, £5.20 for children and £25.80 for families. For more details see www.english-heritage.org.uk.

CELEBRATE four decades of great American song in another fast-paced revue by Ian Adams.

Adams has put together this great evening of entertainment for the Friends of the Marlowe.

The Great American Songbook will take the audience on a musical journey from the early hits of Tin Pan Alley, through to the Broadway musicals of Cole Porter, Rodgers, Hart and Hammerstein, then on to the Golden Age of movie songwriters.

The impressive line-up stars Jane Webster (pictured), who recently played the Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music* at the London Palladium.

She will be joined by tenor Paul Arden-Griffith, who created the role of Monsieur Reyer in *Phantom of the Opera* at the Haymarket Theatre.

The show also features Georgina Todd, principal singer on board the cruise ship *Oriana*, and local girl Rebecca Reaney, who will soon join the cast of *The Mousetrap* in the West End. Song and dance man Adams, musical director Laurence Payne and percussionist Bobby Cook complete the cast.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £14.50/£12.50, concessions available.

Call the box office on 01227 787787 or book online at www.marlowetheatre.com.

THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

Wednesday, April 9
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury



ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?

Saturday, April 5
Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone



ANYONE who thought it would be impossible to recreate the live sound of Jimi Hendrix could be in for a surprise.

Are You Experienced? – a Tribute to Jimi Hendrix claims to be just about the best tribute act audiences are likely to see.

Fronted by John Campbell, who bears more than a passing resemblance to the legendary rock guitarist, the act features three outstanding musicians who are committed to bringing Hendrix's sound back to life.

Drawing on his many years experience playing in different bands and using different styles, Campbell has perfected his Hendrix persona, right down to playing his strat with his teeth.

Revisit the great sound of favourite songs like Hey Joe, Voodoo Chile, All Along the Watchtower, Foxy Lady and Little Wing, with the guitar-burning finale of Wild Thing.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £15/£13. To book call the box office on 01622 758611 or see www.hazlitttheatre.co.uk.



ASHFORD LEISURE

An evening of history is naturally entertaining

LEARN about the Natural History of Kent with Martin Newcombe on Friday.

The event has been organised by Tenterden & District Horticultural Society, to be held at St Mildred's Village Hall in Tenterden at 7.30pm. Both society members and visitors are welcome to attend.

There will be a small charge for admission. For more information call 01580 762774.

Festive musical mix on offer at the bandstand

ENJOY a taster of the Sellindge Music Festival at a special showcase in Ashford this weekend.

Acoustic, folk and indie acts will be performing near the bandstand in the High Street from 1pm to 4pm on Saturday, to promote the festival which will be taking place on the weekend of June 7 and 8.

The event is free. For more information call 01304 828990 or visit the website at www.sellindgemusicfestival.co.uk.

Prepare to tie the knot when you visit the Inn

BRIDES and grooms are invited to a wedding fair at the newly refurbished Holiday Inn Ashford Central.

The hotel in Canterbury Road claims couples will find everything they need to make their big day perfect, as well as making a great setting for the celebrations. The event will run from 10am to 3pm on Sunday and admission is free.

For more information call 07799 130527 or see www.elhevents.co.uk.

Draw attention to your event on these pages

WOULD you like to see your concert, production or event publicised on these pages?

Send full details of your event – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk or by post to the address on page 2. Submissions should arrive at least two weeks before the preferred date of publication.

If possible, include a good photograph to illustrate your event. We cannot guarantee coverage, but we will do our best to promote local events.

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KOS/LOC/08

yourashfordmusic

Trio to flow wherever the music takes them

BY GARETH ARNOLD

MEDWAY'S Aliquot Flow features on The Ether this week performing two acoustic tracks.

The Ether is the county's premier showcase for local musical talent, and is available to access on our free broadband online channel – www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

The acoustic three-piece, consisting of Jerome Evesson on vocals and guitar, Theo Dudhill on bass and drummer/percussionist Darren Wooley, have been gigging in and around the Medway Towns for the last two years, and have already played some high profile gigs including two of the annual all day Antfest gigs held at the Command House in the summer.

Bassist Theo explained the reasons behind the band's formation.

He said: "We originate from the muddy depths of the dingy Medway delta. Our inspiration is founded in the realisation that watching bands is extremely cool, but being part of one whose music you dig is prominently more fulfilling."

"We are prepared for what it takes and know how serious music is and are determined to have fun whilst doing so as independent artists. Who knows where it will lead us, but all that's irrelevant as we want to go only where our music takes us."

The band finished recording a seven track EP in January which includes a previously unreleased instrumental. Currently they are finalising the art work for the release called Fiction Undiscovered, with the inlays printed on recycled card.

To give fans a sneak preview, the band have



INDEPENDENT: The band have produced a series of CDs to give away at their gigs

been giving away a limited run of free promo EPs at recent gigs, including two recent shows.

Theo said: "We played two gigs on March 8, the first time we've done that. We were at Bluewater at 2pm, then quickly shifted over to the White Horse in Rainham to support Secret Love Society and Superhans at 8pm."

"That week we managed to give away approximately 100 free CDs which we printed ourselves, crudely but effectively."

"We'll continue doing this at our gigs this year, and at some point we'll start printing them with two different songs just to mix it up a bit, so try and come to as many gigs as possible if you want to grab some others, including the three new ones."

Aliquot Flow's next gig is on Wednesday, April 16, at The Purple Bar on the Medway Campus of Greenwich University in Chatham.

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MOOLI: Clea Llewellyn performs an acoustic version of Not the One



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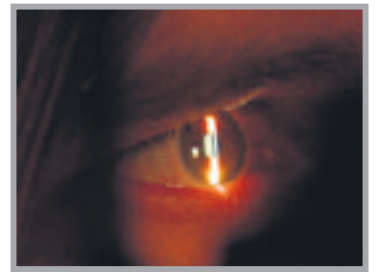
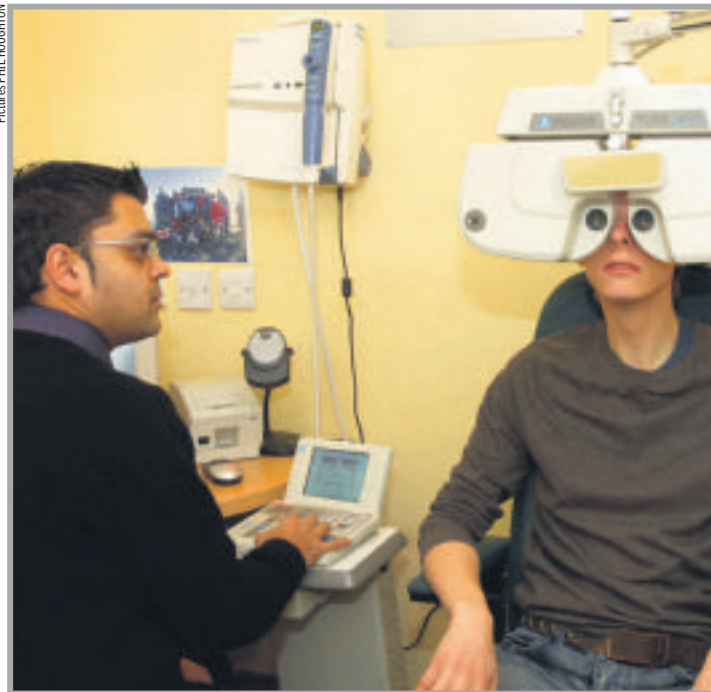
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Pictures: PHIL HUGHTON



EYE TEST

It had been two years since my last test so store optometrist Manish Patel put my peepers through their paces. The test proved invaluable as my sight had deteriorated a small amount since the last exam.

The eyes have it

British designer Jasper Conran's range of eyewear has arrived at opticians, Specsavers. The range is exclusive to the High Street chain and is Conran's first foray into the world of affordable eyewear. With 36 styles available there should be a look to suit every face. Reporter **Tom Betts** ventured to his local branch for an eye test before trying out a selection of the £125 glasses for himself.



FAVOURITES

My favourite pair of the day. A lightweight design that complimented and softened out some of the stronger features of my face.

To search for shopping, services, leisure and entertainment log on @
yourkenttv.co.uk



1960S

The strong black frame gave these specs a 1960s feel with a contemporary, cosmopolitan twist.



PREPPY

This slightly preppy style was extremely comfortable to wear but perhaps suited to those with a different shaped face.



COMFORTABLE

This black framed pair provide a strong outline. These black specs were the most similar to my usual preferred style and also very comfortable.



SHADES

The new Jasper Conran range also includes prescription sunglasses like these.

ASHFORD SHOPPING



WINNER: Rebecca Proud picks up her 4kg Easter egg prize at Park Mall

Easter egg cracked a winner at Park Mall

A GIANT Easter egg was smashed due to high winds at the Park Mall shopping centre over the recent Bank Holiday weekend.

However the egg, which was the main attraction of the complex's prize raffle, still managed to raise £230 from generous shoppers for the local children's hospice the Caldecott Foundation. A second 4kg egg managed to stay intact.

Natalie Price the centre's administrator said: "The wind was so strong the egg kept blowing over but it went to a good home as we gave it to the children at the charity."

Shoppers say cheese at Waitrose showcase

CHEESE lovers will be in heaven at Waitrose as the supermarket launches its French Cheese Showcase.

Shoppers will be able to taste the wide variety of cheeses on offer and learn about different ways of enjoying them – from baked Camembert with crusty bread and celery, to grilled blue cheese and figs on focaccia.

The promotion will run until April 27 alongside the Waitrose French Wine Showcase.

Get online and get yourself a new look

THERE is good news for shopaholics now that high street favourite New Look has launched its online store.

Shoppers will no longer have to hunt through stores for the latest coveted items, simply ordering from the comfort of their computer. With all the latest styles for women, men and children, a sale section and even a virtual wardrobe feature, dressing to impress has never been easier.

Find out more online at www.newlook.co.uk.

Peace of jewellery will help Cambodian charity

DRESS like a celebrity and help a good cause by purchasing By The Stones Peace Bangles.

The pretty bangles come in a range of colours and are sported by the likes of Beyonce Knowles, Rihanna and Lindsey Lohan. The gold-plated bangles have coloured leather inlays and are inscribed with 'peace for Cambodia'.

By The Stones supports direct employment and Fairtrade schemes, as well as donating money to the Bridges Across Borders Cambodia Project. The bangles are available from www.kuati.com, priced at £95 for a set of three.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

BY TOM BETTS

THE APPRENTICE
BBC1, 9pm, Wednesday

"TVE got you two van loads of fish," may well be the most memorable greeting in TV for many a year.

The crop of 16 candidates who signed up for the BBC's flagship reality show may have been expecting a champagne reception but orders are orders and some of the "country's brightest minds" marched down to Islington market nevertheless.

Selling as much seafood as they could muster, the two teams set about doing exactly what any business person worth their salt would avoid and started selling off their stock at ludicrously cheap prices.

Knocking out lobsters worth 20 quid at a fiver a pop is perhaps not the best idea when trying to turn in a profit.

Yes, welcome to the always excellent programme, *The Apprentice*, which returned to our screens last week.

For a show primarily about business it's amazing how conventional financial logic and acumen are hurled out the window so early on in favour of fast talking, insult trading and good, old-fashioned sucking up to the boss.

Not that any of that matters to us viewers of course, in fact it makes it better.

Aside from being quite beautifully shot, what makes this show work where so many other reality shows fail is that it revels in its own nastiness, focusing on the candidates' errors rather than their successes.

It's also a lot better than the American version where the most interesting thing on display is Donald Trump's spectacular gravity-defying hair weave.

Back in Blighty the world's scariest master of ceremonies, Sir Alan Sugar, presides over proceedings, showing the



MASTER: Sir Alan Sugar shows the would-be apprentices who's the boss from the first show

contestants little more than utter disdain from the off.

Fixing the two teams with his best Angry Dad stare as they entered the boardroom for a verbal punch up, he wastes no time in letting the insults fly.

While the 45 minutes leading up to the firing provide good entertainment it's the boardroom scenes which really shine as Sugar takes centre stage and moves in for the kill.

Nicholas, the barrister who was unable to defend himself, was the first casualty of the new run and tonight the remaining 15 will do battle in the dirty world of dry cleaning – so expect all the dirty laundry to be very publicly aired.

As Sir Alan explained early on:

"The prize? Working for me."
It may be time to re-think that application.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

BEWARE of saying one thing, but doing another. Your reputation is on the line here. A money-making opportunity could fall into your lap. Dark thoughts could prevent you from having a good time with your neighbours. Brush your fears aside and join the fun.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

TROUBLESOME thoughts could undermine your calm composure if you're not careful. You may discover that they disappear after being exposed to the light. It may be necessary to revise plans you have made. Delays with a legal matter could also crop up.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOU may not have enough knowledge to work independently. Be open to a generous colleague's advice, even if it seems weird or wacky. Their methods will be unconventional, to say the least, but they could bring home the bacon in a very unexpected and unorthodox way.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

THIS would be a great time to learn a new way of working or relating to people. This process could get long winded and tiresome, but it will be rewarding. Try not to talk down to a colleague who isn't as quick-witted as you. You may not know it now, but you'll need this person's support.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

MONEY could be tight this week, which is really frustrating. You may not be able to afford all the things you have planned. Don't make lame excuses; be truthful. Friends won't judge you, but they will offer help, both emotional and financial. Accept the former and refuse the latter.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

YOU should be expecting to receive a reward or bonus for a job well done. Try to be gracious about this situation. On a practical note you should think long and hard before making any commitments about the future. You may find your views and values are changing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

THE funding for a project could fall through at the last minute and you may be tempted to abandon it altogether. Look to a lover or child for inspiration, their youthful enthusiasm will give you the courage to go on. If you're single, you could meet very someone special.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

WORKING from home would be a great idea. Your sexual side may not get the satisfaction you seek this week, which is frustrating. Resist the temptation to seduce a reluctant lover. By honouring your amour's feelings, you'll pave the way for a more satisfying experience later.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

THIS will be a week of pleasant surprises, particularly where your career is concerned. Don't pass up any opportunity to sit before authority figures. These meetings could lead to some incredible opportunities. If you're thinking of switching industries, follow the impulse.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

AN angry confrontation with people in power could badly backfire. If you want to keep things on an even keel, you should keep your thoughts to yourself. Fortunately, someone is sympathetic to your plight. Look to this person for support whenever you feel like blowing your top.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

YOUR home and family will be a wonderful source of pleasure. You may even be inspired to launch a business from your living room. The ability to control your environment will be a powerful incentive to move this plan forward. The desire to break free is very strong.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

DON'T be too heavy handed with a relative they will respond better to logic than force. A close friend may try to push you to go against your instincts so stick to your guns and stand firm. You need to learn when to fight, when to walk away and when to keep a low profile.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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No30

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY

			2	1	3		8	
2		6	7			5		4
	8	1	5		4			
1		3				6	7	8
8								1
6	5	7				4		3
			4	2	1	3		
5		4			7	8		2
	1		6	5	8			

MEDIUM

		1	4	3				5
7				6	1			
3			9				8	
5	7							
4				2				8
						1	3	
	9			7			1	
		8	9				7	
6			1	2	9			

HARD

						2	7	
3		6			4			
		9	7	6		1	5	
		3	5			4		
4								5
	8			7	3			
8	2		3	1	9			
		2			5	8		
	1	9						

CRYPTIC CLUES

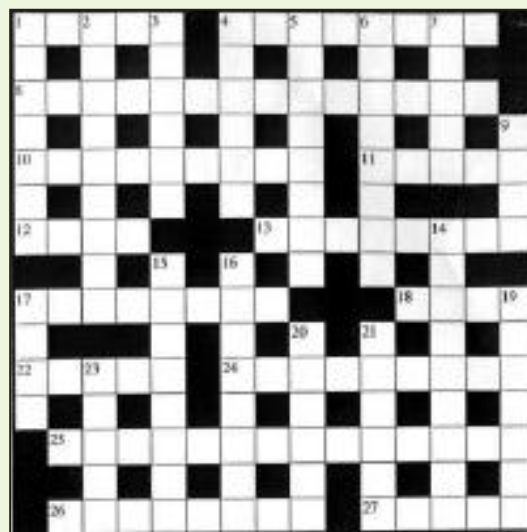
ACROSS

- 1 Author unhappy about including word of hesitation (5)
- 4 Reduction in law cockney has included (8)
- 8 Cry when transistor tube disintegrates (5,4,5)
- 10 Imply in sin, you, say, took food (9)
- 11 Some ammo were hidden by grass-cutter (5)
- 12 Bend the cord (4)
- 13 A printer turned turtle (8)
- 17 Went out of one's way (8)
- 18 Sunny smile? (4)
- 22 In Minorca Terry will provide food (5)
- 24 Brave old Penny without any female relatives? (9)
- 25 Doesn't he charge anything for being in armed movement? (7,7)
- 26 Reportedly battled receiving blows at US military reservation (4,4)
- 27 Laura's trouble is to do with ear (5)

DOWN

- 1 Obtain report from mission or from French underwear shortly (7)
- 2 Illusory discovery in horse's home? (5-4)
- 3 Placing it in chant (6)
- 4 This surgeon should know his drill (6)
- 5 Shut up stuffy Edward (8)
- 6 At all times to a greater extent until the end of time (8)
- 7 Spread some of the best rewards (5)
- 9 Small bird in the navy? (4)
- 14 One making introductions now hesitantly (9)
- 15 Food large number leave is nourishing substance (8)
- 16 Give a custodial sentence, expel from university (4,4)
- 17 Underwater bird? (4)
- 19 Fog to the right and left initially or strong wind (7)
- 20 Six posh fellows included - added at the end (6)
- 21 Brand tags I'm replacing (6)
- 23 Trunk with twisted roots (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Fetch (5)
- 4 Test-case (anag.) (8)
- 8 By degrees (6,2,6)
- 10 Of tailoring (9)
- 11 Recompense (5)
- 12 Species of lily (4)
- 13 Murderer (8)
- 17 Drew (8)
- 18 Fête (4)
- 22 Rainbow colour (5)
- 24 Recreation (9)
- 25 The very best (5,2,2,5)
- 26 Went in front (8)
- 27 Bingo (5)

DOWN

- 1 beacon (7)
- 2 Interval (9)
- 3 Eight pints (6)
- 4 Taxi-driver (6)
- 5 Altruistic (8)
- 6 Outer (8)
- 7 Spring flower (5)
- 9 Song of praise (4)
- 14 Testament (anag.) (9)
- 15 Maintained for profit (8)
- 16 Required (8)
- 17 Yearn (4)
- 19 Style of 1920s and 1930s (3,4)
- 20 Coiled (6)
- 21 Writing tool (6)
- 23 Blunder (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No29

EASY

3	7	9	5	8	2	1	4	6
6	5	8	1	9	4	7	3	2
4	1	2	6	7	3	8	5	9
7	8	5	3	1	8	2	9	4
1	4	3	9	2	8	5	6	7
2	9	6	4	5	7	3	8	1
8	6	7	2	3	9	4	1	5
5	3	4	7	6	1	9	2	8
8	2	1	8	4	5	6	7	3

MEDIUM

4	3	5	9	1	2	8	7	6
6	1	9	8	7	3	4	2	5
2	8	7	4	5	6	9	1	3
7	4	2	3	6	1	5	9	8
5	6	1	7	8	9	3	4	2
3	9	8	5	2	4	6	7	1
8	7	4	1	3	8	2	6	5
1	2	3	6	9	5	7	8	4
8	5	6	2	4	7	1	3	9

HARD

5	9	1	8	4	6	7	2	3
7	4	6	5	3	7	8	9	1
8	2	3	7	9	1	5	4	6
2	7	8	9	1	5	6	3	4
1	5	4	3	6	7	2	8	9
6	3	9	4	2	8	1	5	7
4	6	2	1	8	9	3	7	5
3	1	7	2	5	4	9	6	8
8	8	5	6	7	3	4	1	2

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No29

ACROSS: 8 Highlight 9 Usher
10 Heartland 11 Hindu 12 Taking the field
15 Move 17 Ruler 19 Tyro 21 Orthodox
Church 23 Allow 24 Steamed up 26
Lotus 27 Perspired. DOWN: 1 Divest 2
Cherokee 3 Airliner 4 Shin 5 Push off 6
Chancery 7 Groundhog 13 Telex 14
Immovable 16 Vitality 18 Rehearse 19
Turned in 20 Hogwash 22 Housed 25 Tied

QUICK SOLUTION No30

deco 20 Curled 21 Pencil 23 Error
Economic 16 Demanded 17 Sigh 19 Art
External 7 Tullip 9 Hymn 14 Statement 15
Interlude 3 Gallon 4 Cable 5 Selfless 6
Preceded 27 Lotto. DOWN: 1 Belisha 2
Assassin 25 Crime de la crimine 26
Assassin 17 Stretched 18 Gala 22 Green 24
Little 10 Sartorial 11 Regay 12 Arum 13

Answers to all of this week's **timeout** quizzes can be found on our website

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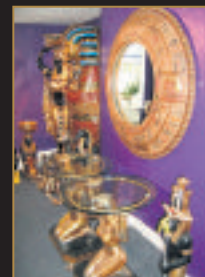
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Red Sea: What a dive!

BY EMILY ASHTON

SWAYING precariously on the seabed, I kept my mind off what was coming up by watching swarms of fish dart in and out of the coral.

Instructor Nikki looked calm and collected as she made her way along our line, where we were trying to keep our balance and not float away or crash face-first on to the sand. She gave my buddy the OK sign, shook his hand and turned to face me.

This was my moment. The swooshing sound of bubbles swept through my ears. I took a few deep breaths and slowly pulled the mask away from my face, grimacing as the sea trickled in, past my nose, past my eyes... I shook my head, shot to the surface and spluttered. Definitely not a natural diver, then!

We were on an intense five-day course to become divers in the enviable surroundings of the Red Sea, based at a dive centre in the resort of Taba Heights in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, with views stretching across the water to Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

The PADI Open Water Course is carefully designed to take wannabe divers through the basics of scuba diving with the aim of being able to dive without an instructor to the depth of 18 metres.

It involves quite a bit of time in the classroom, leaving me some days gazing longingly out of the window at the sunny beach. There



FISHY STUFF: Red Sea diving off the Taba Heights

are tests and then a final exam, as well as a series of practical 'skills' to perform underwater in front of the instructor. It sounds rigorous – and it is.

The course was necessarily intense, but the feeling of accomplishment at the end overrides any annoyance about hours missed out on topping up your tan.

Of course, The Red Sea is a beautiful place

to start diving, with more than 1,100 species of fish and some 1,000 miles of coral reef to explore.

There are plenty of dive centres along the Egyptian coast from which to choose, but Taba Heights has a five-star centre that caters for all ages in a secluded location.

The resort itself is aimed at people who want to enjoy Egypt in luxurious surroundings. Each of the five-star hotels lining the coast is gated and small buses taking people around the area are constantly checked by security staff.

The white sandy beaches are dotted with tasteful sun loungers and, unlike Sharm El Sheikh, the area is unspoiled by high-rise buildings and noise.

Visitors to the carefully-created resort could easily take a day tour or two to nearby Mount Sinai or St Catherine's Monastery – but most tend not to. The hotels are so opulent and the staff so eager to please that a dive trip is enough of an adventure for one holiday.

Of course, one sport isn't enough for everyone – and the boys in our group took to the golf course.

The 18-hole championship course looks a little like it would in a flashy computer game – all breathtaking red mountain ranges, stunning flat greens and wide blue ocean. Quad-biking is also on offer for adventurous sorts.

This isn't real Egypt, and doesn't really pretend to be. For that, you need to spend a few days in Cairo or Alexandria. But if you want a relaxing, sumptuous break that virtually guarantees good weather, then Taba Heights is definitely worth a visit. It probably won't be your last.

FACT FILE: EGYPT

Time difference	UK + 1hr
Capital	Cairo
Population	Approx 80.3 million
Currency	Egyptian pound (109 to £1)
Religion	Muslim
Climate	Arid
Language	Arabic

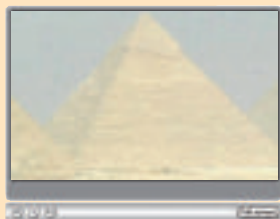
Holiday details

Emily Ashton was a guest of Longwood Holidays, which offers a learn-to-dive package at Taba Heights from £549 per person.

Price includes seven nights' half-board at the five-star Hyatt Regency, Taba Heights, and includes free upgrade to sea view, 15 per cent discount on beverages, 25 per cent discount on treatments and Club Olympus products, five-day PADI Open Water Course at Red Sea Waterworld, including all equipment.

Prices per person (two sharing and both completing PADI Open Water Course) are based on early February departures from Gatwick. Prices include flights, transfers, accommodation, in-flight meals, in-resort rep service and all taxes and surcharges. Certification and study materials not included in price. Study material is purchased prior to departure, and it is advisable to begin reading the manual prior to starting course. Extras payable locally.

Longwood reservations: 0208 418 2525 and www.longwoodholidays.co.uk. Resort information available at www.tabaheights.com.



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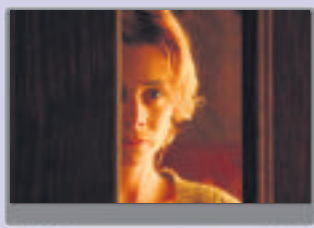
From the screenwriter of *The Devil Wears Prada*, the movie centres on Jane (Katherine Heigl), an idealistic, romantic and selfless woman... a perennial bridal attendant whose own happy ending is nowhere in sight. But when younger sister Tess captures the heart of Jane's boss - with whom she is secretly in love - Jane begins to re-examine her lifestyle.

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (12A)



Ryan (Troy Gentile), Wade (Nate Hartley) and Ermit (David Dorfman) attend their first day at high school and they're psyched... until they meet up with Filkins (Alex Frost), a school bully who comes off a little like Hannibal Lecter. They seek out some protection by placing an ad. Their best response - and the cheapest - comes from Drillbit Taylor (Owen Wilson), a down-on-his-luck soldier of fortune who lives a lonely existence on the beach.

THE ORPHANAGE (15)



The Orphanage centers on Laura (Belén Rueda) who purchases her beloved childhood orphanage with dreams of reopening the abandoned facility as a place for disabled children. Once there, Laura discovers the new environment awakens her son's imagination, but the games he plays with an invisible friend turn into something more disturbing.

Hottie Hilton's got a new role

■ BY KATE WHITING

HEIRESS, entrepreneur, reality TV star, singer, party girl and sometime jailbird - Paris Hilton has played some fairly diverse roles in her life. But it's as a serious film actress that the 27-year-old now wants to be known.

Her movie career got off to a mixed start with 2005 horror *House Of Wax* followed by flops *Bottoms Up* and National Lampoon's *Pledge This!* And the less said about certain intimate amateur footage which spread across the internet, the better.

She's now back on the silver screen in her most high-profile film role to date, playing, somewhat predictably, a glamorous blonde in *The Hottie & The Nottie*.

"This is the first film I've actually really been serious with," Paris admits, flicking her blonde hair extensions - her own branded line - out of her tanned face.

"Like, before, I never had an acting coach, I just really winged it and this time I worked with [coach] Ivana Chubbuck every single day for hours a day. I've worked really hard for it."

Paris plays Christabelle Abbott, a typical Californian babe, beloved by most of the men in Los Angeles, and former childhood friend Nate Cooper (Joel Moore).

When Nate realises Christabelle is the only girl he's ever loved, his attempts to woo her are slightly hampered by her hideously ugly best friend June.

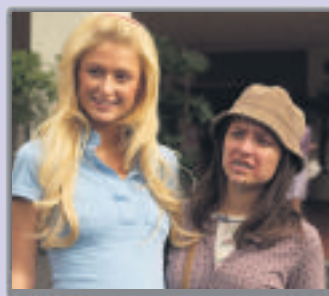
"I just thought it was a sweet story and a really fun film with a really beautiful message," says Paris, "a really cute love story."

As Nate gets closer to Christabelle, she reveals she has vowed not to date another man until June finds true love.

Undaunted, Nate sets out to find the perfect

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

yourkenttv.co.uk



SERIOUS: Paris Hilton wants to be a respected actress

man for June - even if it means hypnotising people before they'll go anywhere near her.

Inner beauty is the film's profound message, believes Paris, who co-produced the project.

"I think every girl has bad days. We are all human. What matters is how you are on the inside that shines through," she says.

These are strong words from a woman who has built her own fortune through modelling and various fashion and beauty lines.

A top model by the time she was 19, she went on to earn a reputation as a socialite, before, in 2003, landing her own reality TV show - *The Simple Life* - which, along with best friend Nicole Richie, rocketed her to international stardom.

So far so good. But *The Simple Life* got a bit more complicated when Paris and Nicole pub-

licly fell out and was cancelled by Fox after three series.

Paris turned her hand to writing and singing, releasing her autobiography and an album.

Last year, to the general glee of paparazzi and tabloid hacks around the globe, she was sentenced to spend 45 days in prison for driving with a suspended licence.

In the end, she spent just over 20 days in detention, and left saying she was a changed woman. Acting is, she believes, another opportunity for people to see the "real", reformed Paris.

"People who think they know me, only know the made-up media character. But that's not who I really am," she adds.



THE HOTTIE & THE NOTTIE
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PROPERTY NEWS

New homes are the greener option

RECYCLING is the word on everyone's lips, except, it seems, in new houses, where builders insist buying a new property can be a better investment than purchasing and renovating an older building.

A recent survey by Redrow Homes, which builds new houses, also uncovered the fact that newer homes tend to be more environmentally friendly, especially heating efficiency.

The study indicated that the hidden costs of refurbishing an old house could leave buyers up to £20,000 out of pocket when it comes to paying off unforeseen improvements which are necessary for it to be habitable.

Another finding was that buying an older home can prove more problematic and involve more hassle than a new property. This is because of such things as surveyors' reports, the history of a particular building and the need to bring it up to what is currently seen as environmentally acceptable levels.

The survey comes at a time when Conservative leader David Cameron has backed moves to ensure all property developers ensure new homes are built to eco-friendly specifications.

South East stung with Stamp Duty

THE average stamp duty bill for newly-built property buyers in Kent is five times higher than that in the north of the UK.

The latest SmartNewHomes.com property price index, which analyses the current average price of a new home, studied data from across Britain to come up with its findings.

The South East came substantially ahead when it came to stamp duty.

"New home buyers in the South East are being penalised for living in the most expensive parts of the UK," said David Bexon, managing director of SmartNewHomes.

"Recent figures have highlighted that the stamp duty bill for the average first-time buyer in the UK in 2007 was £1,751, 82 per cent more than that paid in 2002."

The research also finds the average first-time buyer in the South East is now liable to pay £8,000 in stamp duty.

This, coupled with all other associated home-buying costs, is making property unattainable for vulnerable groups, it concluded.



INFRASTRUCTURE: Kent's improved rail and road links, like the international station at Ebbsfleet, look set to keep the county housing market buoyant

Kent set to ride out property price slump

■ BY NICK AMES

A PREDICTION that house prices could fall by a fifth in parts of the UK should leave Kent largely unaffected.

Thanks to the county's location and improved road and rail links, Kent looks set to ride out the worst of any slump in property prices.

The gloomy forecast into the future of the housing market was issued by one of the world's leading financial institutions.

A senior economist at investment bank Morgan Stanley is predicting that UK house prices could fall by up to 20 per cent over the next two years.

Professor David Miles based his forecast on figures provided by brokers Tradition Group and admitted it was a worst-case scenario, describing the forecast as "at the pessimistic end of the spectrum".

However, he does not view such a fall as catastrophic because there will be "as many

gainers as losers". He believes the winners will be first-time buyers and those on lower salaries who will finally be able to afford to buy.

The average UK house price currently stands at about £200,000, but could fall to £160,000 by the end of 2009 if Professor Miles is correct.

At the beginning of the year, the Financial Services Authority warned that up to one million homeowners could be at risk of mortgage arrears and ultimately repossession.

But Kent should suffer less than the rest of the UK as improvements in infrastructure and the attractive prospect of living in the county cushion the possible fall.

The high-speed rail link should also prove a factor as parts of the county become far more accessible from the City of London than tradi-

tional high-property value areas such as Richmond and Dulwich Village.

The Halifax reported the Medway towns were likely to record significant house price increases as demand was boosted by the planned opening of high-speed commuter services from central London to north and east Kent in late 2009.

Dartford and the surrounding area will also see a boost to its property market as a result of the recent opening of Ebbsfleet International railway station.

From December 2009, it will also have high-speed domestic services, with a 15-minute journey time to St Pancras.

It concluded: "Kent generally is likely to outperform the South East average, partly due to infrastructure improvements."

"Seaside towns in the county are also relatively affordable, which will tend to stimulate demand from the growing number of people looking to live near the coast."

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- Sought After Location
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- No Onward Chain, En-suite
- Garage, Enclosed Garden



KENNINGTON **OIEO £214,995**

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- Sought After Development



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ASHFORD **OIRO £171,995**

ASHFORD OFFICE

BAP01165

- 3 Bedroom Terrace
- Well Maintained
- Sought After Location



KENNINGTON **£159,995**

ASHFORD OFFICE

BAP01190

- 2 Bed End Of Terrace Home
- Popular Location
- Approx 150ft Rear Garden



ASHFORD **£249,995**

ASHFORD OFFICE

BAP01145

- 3-4 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Central Location
- No Onward Chain Worries



ASHFORD **£174,995**

ASHFORD OFFICE **BAP01102**

- Central 3 Bed Property
- Substantial 90ft Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking



SOUTH ASHFORD **£215,000**

ASHFORD OFFICE **BAP01120**

- Secluded Location, Character Property
- 2 Bedroom & Large Plot
- Conservatory



SINGLETON **£234,995**

ASHFORD OFFICE **BAP01180**

- 3 Bedroom Detached
- Fantastic Location
- Single Garage



GODINTON PARK **£174,995**

ASHFORD OFFICE **BAP01164**

- 3 Bedroom Family Home
- Conservatory
- Double Glazing & Central Heating



SOUTH WILLSBOROUGH **£220,000**

ASHFORD OFFICE **BAP00951**

- 4-5 Bedroom Townhouse
- No Onward Chain
- En-suite & Downstairs Cloakroom



ASHFORD **£249,995**

ASHFORD OFFICE **BAP01142**

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- Pretty, Secluded Rear Gardens
- Garage & Driveway Parking



SOUTH ASHFORD **OIRO £130,000**

ASHFORD OFFICE **BAP01029**

- 2 Bedroom Maisonette
- Gardens & Driveway Parking
- Beautifully Maintained



KENNINGTON **£179,995**

ASHFORD OFFICE **BAP01092**

- 3 Bedroom End Of Terrace
- Off Road Parking
- No Onward Chain



GODINTON PARK **£179,500**

ASHFORD OFFICE **BAP01157**

- Three Bedroom Terraced Home
- Lounge/Diner
- Garage En-Block



ASHFORD **£194,995**

ASHFORD OFFICE **BAP00957**

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Well Presented Throughout
- Highly Sought After Location



SOUTH ASHFORD **£164,995**

ASHFORD OFFICE **BAP01181**

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Popular Location
- Approx 100ft Rear Garden

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ASHFORD £99,950  NO STAMP DUTY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Good Bedrooms • Gas Central Heating - Upvc D.G. • Priced To Allow For Redecoration • Early Occupation Available 	ASHFORD £121,995  NO CHAIN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Bedroom Flat • Garden & Parking • Town Centre Location • No Onward Chain 	ASHFORD £120,000  NEW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily Managed Interior • GCH, UPVC Double Glazed • Favoured Location • Off Road Parking For Two Cars 	SINGLETON £147,950  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Good Beds - Master Ensuite • 'Wow' factor Lounge/ Kitchen • UPVC Double Glazing • Allocated off Road Parking 	SHADOXHURST £480,000  1 ACRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-5 bedrooms, Master over 17' x 15' • Luxury en-suite and Dressing Room • Grounds extending to about an acre • Impressive road frontage & 'in/out' driveway
ASHFORD £149,950  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Beds, Conservatory/Dining Rm • UPVC D.G., Gas Central Heating • 14' Kitchen - Separate Utility • Secluded Matured Garden 	ASHFORD £164,950  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 18' Lounge - Fitted Kitchen • Luxury Bathroom • Three Bedrooms • Much Improved & Well Presented 	SINGLETON £166,950  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Dble Beds, Ground Floor Cloakroom • Gas Central Heating - D.G. • Off Road Parking For Two Cars • Favoured Quiet Residential Area 	WILLESBOROUGH £169,995  NEW INSTRUCTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Beds, Feature Size Living Room • Fitted Kitchen - Separate Utility • Off Road Parking • Believed To Date Back To 1827 	MERSHAM £529,995  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended & Updated To High Standard • 4 Dble Beds, Quality Annexe • 2 Kitchens, 2 Conservatories • Double Garage
SINGLETON £173,950  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedrooms - White Bathroom • Refitted Kitchen/Diner • Gas Central Heating - Upvc D.G. • Garage And Drive 	SHADOXHURST £239,950  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Good Beds, 19' Conservatory • UPVC D.G., Central Heating • Potential to extend if required • Garage and Extra Parking 	PARK FARM £235,000  NEW INSTRUCTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Bedrooms, Master En-suite • Favoured Location With Views • Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Cloakroom • UPVC Double Glazing, GCH 	PARK FARM £225,000  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Bedrooms, Master En-suite • Fitted Kitchen/Diner, DSCR • GCH, UPVC Double Glazing • Brick Garage, Favoured Location 	<div>  <p>VIEWING TRIPS FROM ONLY £89 per person</p> <p>Connells</p> <p>OVERSEAS PROPERTY EXHIBITION Connells, 3 Moatfield Meadow, Park Farm Saturday 5th April 10am to 5pm</p> <p>As the UK's no.1 overseas property specialists, Connells Properties offer a fantastic range of homes in Spain, Turkey, Cyprus, Portugal, Greece and help from an LTI, RPI</p> <p>For more details about our Connells</p> <p>01233 502020</p> <p>Spain Turkey Cyprus Portugal Greece Italy</p> <p>Connells Properties</p> </div>
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PARK FARM £187,000  REDUCED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Good Bedroom Semi Detached • Separate Lounge & Dining Room • DSCR, 3 Yrs Remaining NHBC • No Onward Chain 	PARK FARM £339,000  REDUCED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Double Bedrooms, Master En-suite • 3 Receptions, Kit/Breakfast Room • 21' Lounge, Separate Dining Room • Over 6 Years Remaining NHBC 	PARK FARM £235,000  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Double Bedrooms, Master En-suite • Lounge/Diner, Kit/Breakfast Room • DG, CH, Approx 2 Yrs NHBC • Onward Chain Complete 	PARK FARM £284,995  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Bedrooms, Master En-suite, GCH • Double Garage, No Chain, DG • Non Overlooked Rear Garden • Remaining NHBC 	

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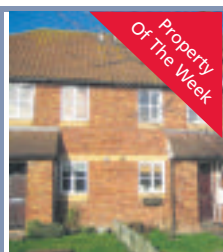
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MOTORS NEWS



Aldo Alfa partnership works for Northgate

CELEBRITY chef Aldo Zilli marked the official re-opening of Northgate Alfa, Canterbury, with a trademark ravioli dish for more than 100 Alfa Romeo fans.

Aldo, pictured here with Northgate MD Peter Hinkins (left), is a lifelong Alfa fan and currently drives an Alfa Spider.

Mr Hinkins said: "We wanted to do something special for the official opening of our Alfa Romeo dealership, and having Aldo Zilli here has been a wonderful experience. He produced a beautiful meal, really entertained our guests and helped open our showroom in style."

Work at Northgate has increased showroom space from four to seven cars as well as boosting outside display and parking.



Volvo R-Design to lift C30 sales with extra kit

VOLVO has gifted nearly £2,000 worth of extra kit to would-be C30 Coupe buyers by making the 1.6 R-Design Sport its new entry model, priced at £14,995 – just £250 more than the 1.6 S that used to open the range.

R-Design also becomes the junior spec across all engine options and brings a striking body kit, rear spoiler and distinctive alloys plus eye-catching interior.

Volvo is offering three years' zero per cent finance with a 30 per cent minimum deposit and 12 months' free insurance too.



Is this the ultimate green driving machine?

BMW's 118d has been judged 'World Green Car of the Year'.

The three and five-door BMW 118d can return 62.8mpg on the combined cycle with CO2 emissions of just 119g/km, placing it in Band B for Vehicle Excise Duty – £35 a year.

It achieves this through standard 1-Series 'Efficient Dynamics' technology – Brake Energy Regeneration, Auto Start-Stop and Electric Power Steering – measures that may be less spectacular than hybrid-electric powerplants, but pointers to greener cars across the motor industry.



Picture: GM Corp

NEW AND IMPROVED: The latest Corsa is sure to impress all kinds of buyer, be they young and trendy or looking for a more practical family car

Bigger 'supersize me' appeal of latest Corsa

ROAD TEST VAUXHALL CORSA

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

appeal, there is also an MP3 audio connection on most models.

Leg, shoulder and headroom has increased and Vauxhall claims the cabin is one of the quietest in its class, with reduced NVH (noise, vibration and harshness). Having driven several versions now, I can't argue with that and the car handles and rides in a much tidier fashion than of old too – there is even a cracking little VXR 'pocket rocket' model.

As more of us downsize in search of greener motoring or greater convenience, the new Corsa also falls into what I call the 'supersize-me-mini' segment, typified by the latest Renault Clio, Fiat Punto and Peugeot 207.

These bigger superminis deliver greater crash protection and retain some big car comforts for owners seeking to reduce both their physical and carbon footprint on the roads.

The 1.4 Club is the best seller – Club is the mid-range trim above Expression and Life, while the 1.4i petrol engine delivers a balance of economy, power and refinement.

But it is the SXi tested here that cuts a dash with its sporty looks and smart alloys as standard.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FIAT PANDA 4X4



MAYBE not quite the typical 'butch' 4x4, but the Panda makes a surprisingly tough little customer for urban and rural users, thanks to under body protection and greater ride height. Despite Fiat's past reputation for poor reliability, the Panda has also proved itself as dependable as it is practical thanks to the boxy yet stylish five-door city car body. In sharp contradiction to the 'gas guzzling' image of 4x4s the Fiat's 1.2 petrol engine should average more than 40mpg too.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

SUZUKI JIMNY



PRETTY it ain't, but the Jimny has long been pretty much the cheapest 'proper' off-roader on the UK market. If you really do need cut-price 4x4 clout in challenging conditions then this is the car. However, that ability brings penalties; the Jimny is rather bouncy, primitive and crude on-road so it is not a 4x4 to buy for image-conscious town dwellers, but the car is frugal, cheap to run and prices are sensible for a reliable and durable little 4x4.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

TOYOTA RAV4



THIS was the car that launched the compact 4x4 sector and is almost a sub-brand on its own for Toyota. The bad news is that RAVs hold their value well, especially in diesel form, but they do go on for years so there should be a decent affordable 'GTI 4x4' out there for most buyers although diesel power did not appear until the second generation. On-road grip and handling is everything, though this means the off-road ability is modest.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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S	SUZUKI VITARA HARD TOP 4X4 ANY TRIAL.....	£1995
P	ALFA ROMEO 146 TI F/S/H PAS S/ROOF.....	£1995
W	FIAT PUNTO 3 DOOR 1.2 CITY POWER STEERING LOW MILEAGE.....	£3495
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147, JTD 02, grey, 8000 miles, £14995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

A4, Sport, yellow, 48795 miles, £16995, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, 120i Se 5dr, 2004, £9990, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 316i Se 3dr, silver, 2003, 34976 miles, petrol, silver, £6990, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

6 SERIES, 645ci coupe, 2004, mystic blue with black dakota leather, 39000 miles, £24950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

7 SERIES, 735i Auto, 2002, oxford green metallic with beige nappa exclusive, 79000 miles, £11950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

KALOS, 1.4 SX 5dr, red, 17094 miles, £4999, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 24637, silver with grey interior £5995, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells 01892 515700 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 1008639, finished in poly silver with grey interior manual, grey, 8000 miles, £5695, Caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

TACUMA, SX 1.6, 16637, blue with black interior manual, black, 0 miles, £7995, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 5.7i auto estate, 2007, brilliant crystal met with dark and light slate gr, 10577 miles, £18950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

NEON, 2.0 LXI, 1995 (n), 95 (n) chrysler neon 2.0 hi automatic, 5 door, green, £1695, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, remote alarm, remote central locking, front fog lamps, cruise control, twin air bags, electric windows, abs, alloy wheels, silver, 34000 miles, £4995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C2, 1.4i SX 3dr, 2007, wicked red, 6554 miles, £7495, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C2, 1.4i SX 3dr, 2007, black, 3000 miles, £7295, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

DAIHATSU HI JET, 11 1999, 1.3 efi drop side truck 49,000 miles ex council, £2250, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

GRAND MOVE, v328hj, immobiliser, cd player, alloy wheels, power steering, metallic paintwork, electric front windows, radio, red, 45000 miles, £2499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FIAT

CINQUECENTO, m/1994, awaiting information, red, 74, 000 miles, E, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, g18ftb, air conditioning, alloy wheels, drivers airbag, electric windows, power steering, remote central locking, split/folding rear seats, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, new oleans blue, 0 miles, £11995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

FORD

EXPLORER, [no trim], 1999, Ford Explorer automatic, 1999, 29700 miles, new mot, vgc, fsh, full specification, one lady driver, £1850, 07977 542607 Ramsgate, green, £1950, Kent, 07977 542607 (PRIVATE)

FIESTA, 1.4 zetec, 2005, moonstard silver with black / charcoal, 32700 miles, £5495, LM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec Climate, 2005, jeans, 6970 miles, £6495, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Style 1.4Tdi New model, 2005, moonstard silver with charcoal/blue trim, 40000 miles, £5495, LM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 TDCi Style Climate, 2007, ocean blue, 0 miles, £8995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.4 LX 5dr, 01/03/2005, cd player abs power steering immobiliser electric windows, silver, 16437 miles, £6999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 01233 504400 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 LX 5dr, 06/05/2002, abs driver airbag immobiliser electric windows, blue, 43021 miles, £4999, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr [115] (Climate Pack), 01/03/2006, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 23797 miles, £8699, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, 1-VTEC SE, 5530079, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric mirrors, electric windows, cruise control, air conditioning, twin air bags, electric sunroof, abs, cloth upholstery, red, 56000 miles, £3695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

ACCORD, 2.0 i-VTEC EX 4dr Auto, bd56elh, headlamp wash/wipe, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, cruise control, full leather, electric windows, cd player, power steering, air conditioning, dual climate zones, 16" alloys, jet black met, 4191 miles, £15499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, 3.0 V6 Auto, 1999, insurance group 15 abs alarm alloy wheels body coloured bumpers climate control immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cassette remote central locking side airbags traction control trip computer 2 owners service history, melenite silver, 62000 miles, £5000, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

2005 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 RUSH 3DR HATCHBACK



Manual, 26,000 miles, Black, 3x3 point rear seat belts, ABS, CD Player, Body coloured bumpers, Cloth seat trim, Drivers airbag, Full service history, TAX July, MOT Jan 2009 one owner from new. Tel: 077254 87771

£3,995 ONO

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER, 90 TD5 County Station Wagon, 10869504, alarm, folding rear seats, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, tow pack, sunroof, cd player, alloy wheels, 4x4, road tax for this vehicle is £210 per year, metallic red, 67000 miles, £12995, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

DEFENDER, 90 TDi Station Wagon, 10875054, power steering, rear wash/wipe, tow pack, stereo, 7 seater, road tax is £165 per year, green, 125000 miles, £3295, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

MAZDA

323, 1.8i Executive, 1998, insurance group 12 2 owners service history central locking front electric windows drivers airbag power steering immobiliser, classic red, 53000 miles, £2000, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

TRIBUTE, Gsi 4wd, 4x5 nmk, front fog lamps, road rails, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, electric mirrors, electric windows, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, radio cassette, cd player, twin air bags, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery, 4x4, silver, 56500 miles, £4695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

230 Sport Compressor, 1998, fantastic car with full ivory leather interior/full sport pack, ilac/blue, 57, 000 miles, £5999.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

A CLASS, A160 2.0 CDI Diesel Classic SE new shape auto, 1470077, amazing saving on new price vat qualifying, always over 40 mercedes-benz cars in stock we will not be beaten on price! fully fa regulated, atoll blue metallic, 12000 miles, £12995, DU Leisure Mercedes Benz Specialist, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

MG

MGF, F Steptronic Sports, 443461, remote central locking, full leather, power steering, air bag, immobiliser, head restraints, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, electric windows, cd player, 16" alloys, british racing green, 43000 miles, £3999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MGF, 10037578, alarm, central locking, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, half leather, head restraints, lumbar support, electric front windows, air conditioning, radio cassette, alloy wheels, silver green, 26612 miles, £4495, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 2007, metallic silver., £15995, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

COOPER, 2006, silver, 7096 miles, £15995, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

COOPER S, 1.6, 2002, red, £9995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

106, 2st 3dr, g152bde, power steering, immobiliser, cd player, radio, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, red, 48000 miles, £2999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

206, 6TI 3dr, 472461, remote central locking, half leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, auto lighting, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, uk supplied, 16" alloys, blue, 52000 miles, £4999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, 1.4 16V Privilege Auto, 2001, insurance group 5 abs air conditioning alarm auto remote control body power steering radio/cd remote central locking side airbags sports seat, lumbar support, rain-sensing wipers, steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer 2 owners, goodwood green, 35000 miles, £4000, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

LAGUNA, Dynamique 2.0 16v 5dr, h70dr, alarm, immobiliser, remote alarm, half leather, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, rain-sensing wipers, metallic paintwork, front fog lamps, colour coded body, auto lighting, electric mirrors, electric windows, dual climate zones, electric sunroof, cd player, uk specification, uk supplied, alloy wheels, red, 15142 miles, £8295, Lifestyle Renault, Tunbridge Wells, 0844 846514 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3, Linear TDI 1.9, oct 2004 if54wde, two previous keepers, power steering, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, 6 speed gearbox, full service history, radio/cd player, twin & side airbags, abs brakes, engine immobiliser, car alarm, on-board computer, tinted glass, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, alloy wheels, silver metallic, 32, 000 miles, £9, 495, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

9000, 2.3 CDE Saloon 4d 2290cc auto, a, very rare auto saab 9000 grille, very fast car very clean immaculate for year, green, 100k miles, £1399.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

ALTO, 1.1 GL Hatchback 5dr, 05/2005, pas electric windows electric windows, black, 37, 000 miles, £3895, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

ALTO, 1.1 GL Hatchback 5dr, 54/2005, pas electric windows central locking, silver, 30, 000 miles, £3895, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

CARRY VAN 1.3, 54/2004, pas central locking, white, 35, 000 miles, £4495 inc vat, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

DI-V 1000 K2, 2003 (03), 2003 (03) suzuki di-v 1000 K2 storm, only 8000 dry miles, service history, centre stand, alarm immobiliser, grip warmers, rear luggage rack, new mot, tax until april 08, as new condition and only £3995, yellow, £3995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

CORSA, Club, 51, 1 years mot, recently serviced full service history, 2 owners, excellent condition, cheap tax and insurance, silver, 52000 miles, £2850, Kent, 07842119575 (PRIVATE)

MERIVA, Energy 1, 14637, finished in silverlight silver with black interior manual, black, 0 miles, £8995, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

MERIVA, Energy 1, 8637, finished in sapphire black with black cloth interior manual, black, 0 miles, £9695, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

MERIVA, Energy 1, 9637, finished in lightning silver with black interior manual, black, 0 miles, £8995, WJ King Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

NEW ASTRA, 2007, black sapphire, 14209 miles, £10995, WJ King Vauxhall, Farnham, 01322 862366 (TRADE)

NEW ASTRA, 2007, star silver, 12966 miles, £8195, WJ King Vauxhall, Gravesend, 01474 565656 (TRADE)

NEW ASTRA, 2007, silver lightning, 18655 miles, £8195, WJ King Vauxhall, Farnham, 01322 862366 (TRADE)

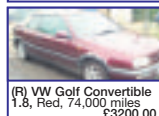
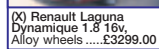
NEW ASTRA, 2007, black sapphire, 0 miles, £18995, WJ King Vauxhall, Rochester, 01634 723723 (TRADE)

VOLKSWAGEN

GOLF, i, 1.9 Sport TDI 5dr, 121658127, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, alloy wheels, coastal blue, 43498 miles, £11999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

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(52) Vauxhall Vectra Elegance 1.8 (new shape) Red£3599.00
(51) Ford Focus Zetec16v Metallic Black 5dr ew, pas£3699.00
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(53) Vauxhall Combe 1700 LPG Euro, White Gas Bi-Fuel Van.....£3499.00
(Y) Reg Vauxhall Corsa Expression 12 valve, red, 22k miles.£2999.00
(02) Vauxhall Vectra 2.2 CDX Met blue (old shape) low miles.....£2999.00
(02) Citroen Saxo Desire Met Blue, PAS, EW, CL£2999.00
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Senior & General Appointments 38-42

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services. Founded in 1975 and currently employing over 300 paid and unpaid staff, it has an annual budget of £11 million and is becoming established as one of the leading service providers in the South East Region.



Operating in the drug & alcohol and mental health sectors, KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services for adults and young people.

REF: 473 - YOUNG PERSONS' DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES WORKER - CANTERBURY

FIXED TERM CONTRACT FOR 1 YEAR
Salary £21,412-£25,320 (NJC Scale 26-31) – 37 hours
Plus Essential Car User Allowance

This post will involve one to one work with young drug and alcohol users (from age 11-17) experiencing complex difficulties including mental health problems, child protection concerns, those receiving substitute prescribing, homelessness, involvement in offending and chaotic substance use. This post will cover the East Kent area.

We are looking for someone with good substance misuse knowledge, excellent communication skills, casework skills, and proven experience of working effectively with young drug and alcohol users.

For an application form please contact: KCA Head Office, Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT
Tel: 01795 590635, Fax: 01795 539351
email recruitment@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk

Closing Date: 18 April 2008
Interview Date: 29 April 2008

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

Charity No: 292824



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NOR 291

Principal: Ian Johnson

Visual and Performing Arts Support Technician Kent Scheme 3

(£13,959 - £15,826 pro rata)

8.30 – 4.30 Mon – Fri Term Time plus five days

Occasional evening hours may be required

To begin as soon as possible

Applications are invited for the post of Visual and Performing Arts Support Technician

We are looking for an energetic and dynamic person to work right across the thriving and expanding Faculty of Visual and Performing Arts.

The successful candidate will support teaching staff in Photography, Animation, Art & Design and Performing Arts lessons as well as working with pupils in the classroom so a background in the Arts is essential.

The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.

Further details are available on our web site: www.spireacademy.com

To apply for this position please forward a letter of application together with a CV by email to: m.wigington@spireacademy.com

Closing date: Friday 11th April 2008 at noon

Interview date: Monday 21st April 2008

To advertise in this section 01303 817040

Make a difference. Foster carers wanted for dynamic new service

The Caldecott Foundation is launching a new fostering service in response to requests from numerous local authorities.

The service is part of a multi-disciplinary framework which offers support and training from the Foundation's existing range of professional services including the Caldecott School, therapy centre, psychology service and learning and development centre.

You will receive a comprehensive package of support and training reflecting the demands of the role you will undertake, and very competitive rates of pay.

You will be highly motivated, enjoy life, and be dedicated to providing the very best standards of care to vulnerable children who have experienced extreme trauma and disruption in their lives.

Contact Jamie Bromfield or Erica Eversfield to register your interest on 01303 815648 or email fostering@caldecottfoundation.co.uk



www.caldecottfoundation.co.uk

The Caldecott Foundation Helping children build a future

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The Huntercombe Group

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Shifts Required Days, nights.

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01622 858850 - Paul Chadderton.

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Please send your CV with a covering letter to Robert Smith at the above address.

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Mrs. Brooks is 84 years old and soon going home from hospital. She feels anxious about how she will manage her shopping and would like someone to visit to give her general support and practical help.

Could you spare a few hours a week to help Mrs Brooks and others like her to regain her confidence and provide some social contact?

For further information about becoming a Home From Hospital Volunteer in your area please phone Robyn on 01227 763900 (Answerphone out of hours)

Your expenses will be paid and training will be provided.

Charity No.220949

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Travel will be an essential part of this role, with 4 or 5 foreign trips a year required, visiting educational consultants, educational fairs and potential parents and students. In return you will find the role challenging, rewarding and motivating working with a team of dedicated staff in a beautiful Sussex setting.

We will pay £28,000 to £35,000 depending on experience, plus bonuses and incentives.

Please respond with cv and covering letter to: admin@buckswood.co.uk.

If you are shortlisted we will invite you for an interview in the very near future.



Swale Community Safety Partnership Co-ordinator

3 years fixed term contract

37 hours per week Salary £21,078 - £28,032

Swale Community Safety Partnership is a multi-agency group involving local council, Police, Education, Social Services, Kent Fire & Rescue, Primary Care Trust, Probation and local social housing provider. The Swale Community Safety Partnership objective is to reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse within Swale Borough.

We are seeking to appoint a Community Safety Partnership Co-ordinator to facilitate the objectives of Swale Community Safety Partnership through co-ordination of information to the Partnership to help and enable it to set policy, make decisions and deliver services to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Swale.

You will need to evidence

- Experience of partnership working including ability to negotiate with, and encourage partners to work together and support the role of the Community Safety Partnership.
- Good communication and presentation skills both written and verbal.
- Insight into Partnership responsibilities within the Community Safety Partnership.
- Proficiency in interpretation of statistics and relevant analytical products, and budgetary control.
- Driving Licence and occasional use of a vehicle for work.

It would also be desirable to have experience of managing varied teams to achieve successful outcomes in a partnership environment, knowledge of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent legislation, and be a skilled IT user.

The post holder will primarily work from Swale Borough Council Offices in Sittingbourne.

For further information contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone Sittingbourne (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting 503ED3.

E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk Website: <http://jobs.swale.gov.uk>

Closing date: 21 April 2008

Interviews: 9 May 2008



CONTROL ROOM OPERATOR

We are looking for an energetic and enthusiastic person to join our team of Control Room Operators who assist in the running of a 24hr Vehicle Breakdown, Recovery and Transportation Company. A knowledge of the industry would be an advantage, but it is essential to have a good telephone manner, common sense and an ability to think logically under pressure.

Apply in writing, including a CV to:

Personnel Director, Eclipse Recovery Services Ltd,
The Warren, Ratling Road, Ratling,
Canterbury, Kent CT3 3BD

Or call 01304 843011 for an Application Form.

Closing date: 16th April 2008



Valence School

Westerham, Kent

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£13,619 to £15,440 full time equivalent

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Valence School, Westerham, Kent TN16 1ON
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The Wedge, 75-81 Tontine Street, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1JR
T: 01303 259 777 F: 01303 259 786
www.screen-south.org

Closing date: 18 April 2008

Interviews to be held on: 28 April 2008
Screen South are an equal opportunities employer

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- The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of the TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should any reason arise, the advertiser will not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours). KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production of the standard production hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
- Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
- Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
- a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received or repudiate the contract.
c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
- Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
- Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
- All private advertisement and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
- The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
- An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
- Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from March 2008

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Hadlow College is Kent's premier land-based college and one of the top three such colleges in the United Kingdom.

The College lies in a picturesque part of West Kent, with a 256 hectare campus boasting an enviable array of facilities to enable students to maximise learning and gain realistic experience of the workplace for their future careers.

A £55 million capital project is planned over the next 2 years, aimed at building the best facilities of their kind in the Country.

Floristry Lecturer

£21,762 to £29,337 per annum

We are looking to recruit a full-time Lecturer to join our existing vibrant and enthusiastic Floristry team, delivering a range of Floristry courses to our Further and Higher Education students. You must therefore have practical experience of working in the industry, teaching experience in a practical or classroom setting and a Level 3 Floristry qualification such as the ANC. The ICSF qualification would also be an advantage.

In addition to the minimum requirements detailed above, candidates will also need a teaching qualification or the willingness to work towards one, excellent communication and IT skills and the ability to work well as part of a team. Qualifications A1/A2 (or D32 and D33) would also be an advantage.

The successful candidate will also need to be flexible, as the full-time hours will include teaching some evening classes and travelling to our satellite centres, currently in Motttingham, South East London and Canterbury, Kent.

As well as contributory pension scheme, sponsorship for further vocational training and free car parking, this post also attracts 35 days holiday each year (excluding bank holidays).

To receive an information pack and application form please telephone the Human Resources Department on 01732 850551 or e-mail us at jobs@hadlow.ac.uk.

Closing date is Monday, 21st April 2008.

Visit Hadlow College at www.hadlow.ac.uk

Hadlow College is a committed equal opportunities employer.



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Medway STC Rochester, Kent



KS3/4 Science Teacher

Salary: £26,235 - £30,438 Ref: P06565/07/2/AL

(Plus £2,000 market supplement for suitably qualified candidate)

We require an experienced and enthusiastic Science Teacher to help organise, develop and deliver learning opportunities in Science up to Key Stage 4.

You will serve as a tutor, assessing and advising students of their academic success and monitoring their overall progress. You will be a Science Graduate with a PGCE qualification, have experience of teaching each of the disciplines and preferably have experience of administering and/or delivering Entry Level GCSE. The ability to offer another teaching subject, especially English, would be advantageous.

KS3/4 Art Teacher

Salary: £26,235 - £30,438 Ref: P04278/07/1/AL

(Plus £2,000 market supplement for suitably qualified candidate)

We require an experienced and enthusiastic Art Teacher to help organise, develop and deliver learning opportunities in Art up to Key Stage 4.

You will serve as a tutor, assessing and advising students of their academic success and monitoring their overall progress. You will be an Art Graduate with a PGCE qualification, have experience of teaching each of the disciplines and preferably have experience of administering and/or delivering Entry Level GCSE. The ability to offer another teaching subject, especially English, would be advantageous.

These posts are exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1978 (as amended) and are therefore subject to appropriate clearance.

Closing date: Friday 11 April 2008

For further details and an application form please quote the reference number and contact the Personnel Section.

Telephone 0161 611 7589 / 7548
Minicom 0161 611 7591
personnel@ccm.ac.uk



Curriculum vitae will not be accepted.
An equal opportunities employer

Assessor in Catering

Ref: S2122

Variable contract
Folkestone

Assessing workplace students in the Hospitality and Catering area up to NVQ Level 3 and Key Skills Level 2, you will support both work based trainees and employees. You will have an NVQ Level 3 or equivalent in Catering, Assessor Award A1 (formerly D32/D33) and Basic Food Hygiene qualification.

Lecturing in Catering

Ref: T1316

Fixed-term until 31/07/08

Variable contract
Ashford

Variable lecturer required to teach a range of Catering courses up to NVQ Level 2 in a realistic working environment. You will have an NVQ Level 3 or equivalent in Catering, 3 years' recent and relevant industrial experience and Basic Food Hygiene qualification. Above all you will be committed to student success.

The closing date for receipt of all completed application forms is Monday 7th April 2008.

For further information, including salary details and an application pack for the above vacancy, please contact the Human Resources Department on either 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment.

Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.



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Wheelman / Collector - Leas Lift

£11,720 pa pro rata (Seasonal May to September)
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Environment – Grounds Maintenance

This is a unique opportunity within the Parks and Grounds Maintenance Section, you will be involved in the day to day maintenance and operation of the Leas Lift, including cleansing, decoration of building, lifts and surrounding areas, cash collection, assisting the public, operating the lift, carrying out daily and weekly maintenance inspections, including brake tests and track inspections.

Ideally, you should have keen interest in local history, preservation and historical conservation, whilst being physically fit and mechanically minded. Full training will be provided.

It is essential that you have a pleasant and professional manner when dealing with the public and a flexible approach to work requirements and working weekends/bank holidays.

If you wish to discuss the above position informally before applying, please contact Laura Pinkham on 01303 247376.

For application details either download at www.shepway.gov.uk or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481.

Closing date for completed applications is Friday 11 April 2008.



Shepway District Council is an
Equal Opportunities Employer and
welcomes applications irrespective of
race, colour, age, sex or disability.



E-Marketing Manager x 2

Holiday Extras is a young and exciting company and growing fast. We are looking for an E-Marketing Manager to join our ever expanding Web Team in Newingreen.

You will be expected to:

- Outline multi channel brand strategies to align with business objectives
- Coordinate innovative and exciting marketing campaigns
- Define effective marketing strategies to develop long term customer retention and increase their value to the business
- Oversee all marketing activity for Directs, Intermediary and Agents for your brands
- Successfully manage small teams to ensure delivery of results

Responsibilities:

- Brand strategy
- Ensure the balance is struck between brand and SEO with the content team
- Understand our customers and their behaviour, developing customer profiles
- Campaign management, focusing on customer acquisition rate and customer retention rate
- Knowing the numbers. i.e set budgets and analyse market trends

The Requirements:

- At least 4 years marketing experience/relevant degree/industry experience
- Extensive project management skills
- Excellent people and relationship management skills
- Ability to adapt to change in a highly fluid market
- A solid technical knowledge
- E-Commerce experience

We Expect:

Great ROIs.- Conversions and repeat business - Production of good quality work within agreed timescales - Innovation - Productive relationships with external agencies

Salary up to £30,000 (DOE).

Interested? Then please send your CV and covering letter to **Holiday Extras, Newingreen, Hythe, Kent CT21 4JF** or to recruitment@holidayextras.com

Closing Date: 11 April 2008



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MEDWAY TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Teacher
Balfour Junior School
 KS 2 Teacher
 Salary: MPS/UPS
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 8 May 2008
To apply/more information
 The School Office
 Balfour Junior School
 Balfour Road, Chatham
 Kent ME4 6QX
 Telephone - (01634) 301070
 Email elkig001@medway.org.uk

Featherby Junior School
 Inclusion/SEN teacher
 Salary: MPS/UPS + SEN 1
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 4 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Mr Paul Green, Headteacher
 Featherby Junior School
 Chilham Road, Gillingham
 Kent ME8 6BT
 Telephone - (01634) 231984
 Email office@featherby-jun.medway.sch.uk

St Benedict's Roman Catholic Primary School
 Key stage 1 & 2 teachers
 Salary: MPS/UPS
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 3 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Mrs Mrs Barbara Salamonzky, Headteacher
 St Benedict's Roman Catholic Primary School
 Lambourn Way, Lordwood
 Chatham
 Kent ME56 8PU
 Telephone - (01634) 669700
 Email headteacher@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk

St James' C of E VA Primary School
 Key stage 2 teacher
 Salary: MPS/UPS
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 3 April 2008

To apply/more information
 The School Office
 St James' C of E VA Primary School
 Isle of Grain, Rochester
 Kent ME3 0BS
 Telephone - (01634) 270341
 Email office@stjames.medway.sch.uk

The Pilgrim School
 Key stage 1 Teacher (job share)
 Salary: MPS/UPS
 Job share and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 4 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Mrs D Field, Office Manager
 The Pilgrim School
 Warwick Crescent, Borstal
 Rochester, Kent ME1 3LF
 Telephone - (01634) 841873
 Email office@pilgrim.medway.sch.uk

Fairview Community Primary School
 Foundation Teacher
 Salary: MPS/UPS
 Full time and fixed term
 Term of contract: 1 Year
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Diana Parker, Office Manager
 Fairview Community Primary School
 Drewery Drive, Wigmore
 Gillingham, Kent ME8 0NU
 Telephone - (01634) 338710
 Email office@fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Medway Community College
 Teacher of English
 Salary: MPS/UPS
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 or earlier Closing date: 25 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Katharine Pringle/Julie Jones
 Teacher Recruitment
 Medway Council
 Civic Centre
 Strood
 Rochester, Kent ME2 4AU
 Telephone - (01634) 331292
 E-mail teaching@medway.gov.uk

Senior Leader
St Benedict's Roman Catholic Primary School
 Senior leader of teaching and learning
 Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR2C (£2364)
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 3 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Mrs Mrs Barbara Salamonzky, Headteacher
 St Benedict's Roman Catholic Primary School
 Lambourn Way
 Lordwood
 Chatham
 Kent ME56 8PU
 Telephone - (01634) 669700
 Email headteacher@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk

Deputy Headteacher
Stoke Community School
 Deputy Headteacher
 Salary: L1-L5
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 3 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Carolyn Cassettari, Headteacher
 Stoke Community School
 Lower Stoke
 Rochester
 Kent ME3 9SL
 Telephone - (01634) 270268
 Email headteacher@stoke.medway.sch.uk

Foundation Stage Leader
St James' C of E VA Primary School
 Foundation Stage Leader
 Salary: MPS/UPS + TLRb
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 4 April 2008
To apply/more information
 The School Office
 St James' C of E VA Primary School
 Isle of Grain
 Rochester
 Kent ME3 0BS
 Telephone - (01634) 270341
 Email office@stjames.medway.sch.uk

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Teacher
Greenacre School
 Teacher of PE
 Full time and permanent
 Salary: MPS/UPS
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 30 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Mr A J Reese
 Headteacher
 Greenacre School
 Bradfields Avenue
 Chatham
 Kent ME5 0LE
 Telephone - (01634) 861593
 E-mail office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk

St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
 Teacher of English
 Salary: MPS/UPS
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 3 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Mr D Kelly
 Headteacher
 St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
 Ordinance Street
 Chatham
 Kent ME4 6DP
 Telephone - (01634) 842811
 Email: headteacher@st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk

St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
 Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages
 Salary: MPS/UPS
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 3 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Mr D Kelly
 Headteacher
 St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
 Ordinance Street
 Chatham
 Kent ME4 6DP
 Telephone - (01634) 842811
 Email headteacher@st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk

St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
 Teacher of Law
 Salary: MPS/UPS
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Mr D Kelly, Headteacher
 St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
 Ordinance Street
 Chatham
 Kent ME4 6DP
 Telephone - (01634) 842811
 Email headteacher@st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk

Assistant Faculty Leader
St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
 Assistant Faculty Leader of Religious Education
 Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2c (£2,364)
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Mr D Kelly, Headteacher
 St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
 Ordinance Street
 Chatham
 Kent ME4 6DP
 Telephone - (01634) 842811
 Email: headteacher@st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk

Head of Department
Greenacre School
 Subject Leader in English
 Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1b (£9,981)
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 30 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Mr A J Reese
 Headteacher
 Greenacre School
 (A Specialist Sports College)
 Bradfields Avenue
 Chatham
 Kent ME5 0LE
 Telephone - (01634) 861593
 Fax - 01634 869246
 Email office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk

The Howard School
 Head of Technology
 Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1C (£8405)
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 4 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Mr P G Morris
 Principle
 The Howard School
 Derwent Way
 Rainham
 Kent
 ME8 0BX
 Telephone - (01634) 388765
 Email office@howard.medway.sch.uk

St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
 Faculty Leader of Religious Education
 Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1a (£11,557)
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 3 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Mr D Kelly
 Headteacher
 St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
 Ordinance Street
 Chatham
 Kent
 ME4 6DP
 Telephone - (01634) 842811
 Email headteacher@st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk

Chatham South School
 Head of ICT
 Salary: MPS/UPS + TLRc
 Full time and permanent
 Required From: 1 September 2008
 Closing Date: 21 April 2008
To apply/more information
 Mrs Maureen Chipperfield
 Office Manager
 Chatham South School
 Letchworth Avenue,
 Chatham
 Kent
 ME4 6NT
 Telephone - (01634) 404277
 Email Headteacher@chathamssouth.medway.sch.uk

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Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check

Telesales Executives

We are looking to recruit two highly-driven, confident, self motivated team players, who are able to work under pressure to deadline and target, in our fast-paced and fun recruitment department.

You will be working with an existing client base where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities. Due to location, you need to have your own transport and a proven track record in sales is preferable.

We offer: OTE £20,000

- Good basic salary
- Performance and revenue related bonuses
- Five weeks holiday a year

To join a visionary and exciting media company, please phone Christine Davidson, Recruitment Manager on 01303 817040 or email your CV and covering note to christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

KOS Media
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 Hythe Road
 Smeeth
 Ashford
 Kent TN25 6SR

www.kentnews.co.uk
www.jobsforkent.co.uk
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Telesales Executive

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With the successful launch of eight new local newspapers (sept 07), we are looking for a telephone sales person to join our team.

Our Multi Media Business also includes the award winning Kent On Sunday and Kentish Saturday Observer, Local Websites and Web TV.

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You will be working with an existing client base where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities. Due to location, you need to have your own transport and a proven track record in sales is preferable.

We offer: OTE £20,000

- Good basic salary
- Performance and revenue related bonuses
- Five weeks holiday a year

Apply in writing to: Tracy Morgan, Telesales Manager, KOS Media Ltd, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent or email tracy.morgan@kosmedia.co.uk

KOS Media
 Apple Barn
 Hythe Road
 Smeeth
 Ashford
 Kent TN25 6SR

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TEACHING ASSISTANT/ MIDDAY SUPERVISOR

Hours: 25 hours per week (15 hours with one pupil and 10 hours general classroom and some lunch duties) term time only.

Pay: KS3 point 7 – 11 £13,619 to £15,440 pro rata

We are looking for an enthusiastic Teaching Assistant/midday supervisor who has an NVQ2 in a child related area, to join our committed and highly effective team for 25 hours per week during term time only. This will involve working one to one with a statemented child for part of the time, plus general classroom TA duties and include some lunch-time supervision.

For an information pack, application form or an informal visit to the school, please contact Mrs Liz Steele, PA to the Headteacher.

Victoria Road Primary School, Victoria Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 7HQ
 Tel: 01233 620044
school@victoria-road.kent.sch.uk

Closing date: 1st May 2008
Interviews: 8th May 2008
Start Date: As soon as possible.

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Ashford
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Rochester
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with Business Editor
TONY PATEY

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cut down the stress and save money too

BUSINESS watchdog Acas is urging companies to reduce absenteeism by ensuring employees are healthy at work.

Recent research indicated that 307,000 people in the South East suffered from an illness they believed was caused or made worse by their work.

Other studies discovered that three out of every 10 employees experienced mental health problems and it is estimated stress-related sick leave costs UK businesses £370 million a year or the equivalent of 91 million working days.

The agency added that managers need to be aware of health issues, especially those affecting mental well-being.

Paul Beard, director of Acas for the South East, said: "Creating a healthy workplace has strong benefits for individuals and organisations.

"This guide will help businesses ensure measures are taken to look after employees, which in turn will boost productivity and effectiveness.

"If businesses can take steps to manage ill-health, then they will save money and have happier employees."

Certificate is needed to prove competence

A DEADLINE is approaching for businesses across the county to be able to display a certificate of competence when it comes to transporting animals.

If they are unable to do so, a £500 fine or six months' imprisonment can be imposed. The regulations come into effect from the end of April.

With its large farming community, Kent is particularly affected by the new regulations, which are part of the European Council's regulations covering animals transported "for economic gain".

Environmental accreditation body Lantira has developed a qualification which covers the act.

"We have seen a good uptake in candidates undertaking the assessments; however, it is important businesses and individuals don't leave it to the last minute to enquire about these qualifications," said Lantira's managing director Wayne Grills.

For more information Lantira can be phoned on 024 7641 9703.

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Discover how the county's hop-farming industry is changing

Defending the ethics of trade

■ BY NICK AMES

AN ETHICAL code to ensure "a high set of values" for Britain's defence industry, including Rochester-based BAE Systems, is being proposed by trade minister Lord Digby Jones.

Lord Jones's department is taking over the role of promoting arms exports and says a new ethical code is necessary to restore faith in an industry which has suffered allegations of corruption.

From April 1, UK Trade and Investment – part of the Department for Business and Enterprise – took over arms sales promotion from the Ministry of Defence.

The move was controversial as it involved scrapping the MOD's own export agency, which was championed by industry heavyweights including BAE chief executive Mike Turner.

BAE bosses said they were aware of the move, but it was still in its early stages.

But a spokeswoman said: "We are committed to operating at the highest possible level, so would fully support any move to ensure this is done so across the industry."

A new agency has been formed under the departmental umbrella to conduct the work. Called the Defence and Security Organisation, it can tap into its parent

organisation's contacts – which could prove a bonanza for UK exports and jobs within the industry.

According to bosses, the old group had presentation in about 20 companies – as opposed to the 130 which can now be reached.

But part of the shake-up is the introduction of a new ethical code.

Lord Jones said: "I want a transparent code of conduct that people can look at, check and mark off against."

He added the code would be "a set of values about how we sell defence equipment around the world".

The minister added he hoped more people would be attracted to work in the business.

"I want kids to understand that defence manufacturing as a sector is something they should build a career in.

"No kid is going to go in there if they think this Government does not approve of it or like it.

"If we stop making [defence equipment] you are not going to stop the French and Russians and everybody else making the stuff, so you are not going to make the world a safer place.

"In fact, if anything, you are going to take out of the game a player that has a code of conduct and a very high level of transparency."



CODE: Trade minister Lord Digby Jones has proposed a new set of values for defence



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RUGBY

Ashford 23
Sittingbourne 16

YOUNGSTER Ed Starkie scored two tries as Ashford secured back-to-back wins for only the second time this season with a deserved victory against Sittingbourne.

The winger, who graduated from Ashford's colts, proved the difference with good finishes in either half as the hosts came from behind to take the points.

The home side were boosted by the return of captain Paul Lake, but this was tempered within five minutes when they lost Steve Manktelow. Duncan McKay came on as a replacement.

Sittingbourne took advantage of the disruption and moved ahead with an interception try, which was converted for a 7-0 lead.

Almost from the restart Ashford levelled

Fans celebrate a rare back-to-back victory

when JJ Murray fed Trevor Marama at pace to dive over under the posts. Murray made it 7-7 with 15 minutes on the clock.

Rain and a strong wind caused numerous handling errors which disrupted the flow.

Eight minutes before the break Starkie put the hosts ahead for the first time by beating two defenders to touch down in the corner.

The sides traded penalties late in the half to send Ashford in 15-10 up at the break.

Sittingbourne narrowed the gap to two points with another penalty on 50 minutes,

but before they could gain a foothold in the game, Murray restored the lead with a successful kick of his own.

With 15 minutes remaining Joe Lakin sent a kick through which was fumbled by the Sittingbourne full-back. Starkie capitalised to score his second try and make the game safe.

The scoring was rounded off with another penalty for the visitors, but they did not threaten to take anything from the game.

Ashford's league programme is completed against bottom side Erith on April 12.



Picture JOHN LAKE

NICE TRY: Trevor Marama helped set up Ashford's home victory with a try in the second half

Rider rockets to top season start

SIDECAR champion Tim Reeves got off to a great start with two race wins and a new lap record in the opening round of the season at Donington Park.

On a newly built bike, Reeves and passenger Patrick Farrance cruised to pole position, smashing the lap record by 3.5 seconds.

A delighted Reeves said: "This is a perfect start to the season. The new bike goes like a rocket, I have lost a bit of weight and feel really fit, and Patrick is on mint form."

Reeves and Farrance will be back in action when the series moves to Norfolk's Snetterton circuit on April 13.

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Gillingham boss Mark Stimson on how he plans to steer the club to safety

Ducati biker revs up for Brands

LEON Camier will look to get off to a good start when the British Superbikes Championship begins at Brands Hatch.

This weekend's event will be the first race for the 21-year-old on the Airwaves Ducati after his move from Honda.

Brands holds good memories for the Ashford-born rider, who finished third at the circuit in his first ever British Superbike race last year.

It will be the first race since his season-ending crash at Cadwell Park in August, which kept him off the bike for six months.

Camier is team mates with Sittingbourne's Shane Byrne.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT
glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



Lovell admits play-offs are step too far

FOOTBALL

BY YOURASHFORD REPORTER

A WATERLOGGED Homelands pitch claimed a seventh fixture in five months as Ashford Town were once again forced into a postponement on Saturday.

Heavy rain in the 24 hours before the game made the surface unplayable.

The Nuts and Bolts now face seven games in 26 days to complete their league programme on time.

Despite having up to three games in hand on the sides around them, Town boss Steve Lovell finally conceded his side were too far behind to make the play-offs.

Ashford are 12th in the Ryman South, 16 points off the top five.

He said: "I think I would have been frustrated if the game was cancelled and we were in a position to make the play-offs."

"However, the truth is that we are too far away from the play-offs now so I am just planning for next season really."

"Hopefully if the weather is good we will be back in action and I hope we can continue where we left off."

"I will be giving a few players who have not had so many games this season a run out. Now is the time I can look at all my squad and plan for next season."

One area Lovell will experiment with in preparation for next season is his side's formation. He usually favours an orthodox 4-4-2 system but against Dover Athletic on Easter Monday he went with a more attacking 3-4-3 option.

Danny Braithwaite, Sean Ray and Danny Lye looked solid in a back three as Ashford became one of the few teams to take points away from the home of the league leaders in a 1-1 draw.

The Ashford boss was encouraged by the performance and could stick with the system.

He said: "It worked very well. We really caused Dover some problems and certainly took the game to them. I have learnt now that my back three can handle the formation and they did very well."

"To be honest all my players played very well and I was upset we did not get a penalty - if it had been given the game could have been a completely different story."



Pictures IGOR KUPCO

EXPERIMENT: Ashford Town manager Steve Lovell (left) is likely to continue with an attacking change of formation for his side during the final month of the season, which includes a back three featuring Danny Braithwaite (right)

A top-ten finish is not beyond Town and they could finish strongly.

Due to the postponements, five of their final seven games are at the Homelands and only two of their remaining opponents are from the top half of the table.

This weekend they host Leatherhead looking

to complete a league double over the Surrey side.

A Walid Matata double helped Ashford to a 3-1 win at Fetcham Grove in October.

Ashford were in action last night against struggling Walton Casuals. Log on to www.yourashford.co.uk for the match report.

Staff confident he has a Beijing berth

CYCLING

BY TOM HOWARD

TRACK cyclist Jamie Staff believes a place in the Beijing Olympics is his after securing a silver medal in the World Track Cycling Championships at Manchester last week.

The Ashford rider shocked both himself and the home crowd by setting a personal best lap of 17.2secs as the Great Britain trio were beaten to the gold medal by favourites France, by half a second.

The team sprint trio of Olympic champion Chris Hoy, Ross Edgar and Staff cruised through the heats to book a place in the final against the reigning champions.

Shocked

Staff, who has never won an Olympic medal, believes that come Beijing, Great Britain can topple their cross-Channel rivals.

Staff told Yourashford: "The silver medal was a huge boost for me, especially setting a personal best.

"However, we have got to work on our starts a lot more if we are to try and catch up and beat France.

"In a way it is good that we know how far we have to go to be on the level of France come the Olympics.

"I think I have pretty much guaranteed my spot in the Olympics team after the 17.2 lap I posted.

"Not being over-confident, but I think the other riders have got to step up to the plate to knock me off my perch."

The 34-year-old's coach had told Staff before the event that it would be near impossible for him to record a 17.2 lap of the Manchester Velodrome.

He added: "To be quite honest I was shocked when I set a personal best.

"I wanted to believe I could do it and I managed it which was a fantastic feeling.



PEDAL POWER: Jamie Staff feels certain he has secured a place in the Great Britain Olympic cycling team

"I do believe a lot of it was down to the conditions. noise of the home crowd really helped me. It is these moments when you realise how special track cycling is."

"It was very warm in the velodrome and the

noise of the home crowd really helped me. It is these moments when you realise how special track cycling is."

Bethersden take title as Ashford put to the sword

BETHERSDEN were crowned Ashford & District Sunday Football League Premier Division champions after a surprisingly comfortable win against Ashford Cavaliers in the final.

In what was expected to be a tight affair at the Reachfields Stadium, Bethersden ran riot and cruised to a 5-1 victory.

Bocca caused the biggest shock of the day in Division One as they came from behind to beat Trojans 3-2.

Tom Colton and Marcus Pearce put the visitors in control, but Colin Burnicle's strike triggered a stunning comeback. Goals from Martin Buduzwick and a second from Burnicle completed a surprise win.

Elsewhere, both Red Heathens and Mersham enjoyed large away wins.

Richard Amos sent Heathens on their way against Grasshoppers with a brace, while Ricky Delaney and Craig Haynes also got on the score sheet to make it 4-0.

Mersham bounced back from their draw with Ashford Eagles in the previous game to thrash them 9-1. Rob Clark

FOOTBALL

was the star with a hat-trick, while Luke Stanley, Mark Howles and Chris Holmes bagged two each. Martin Morrison got the Eagles' consolation.

Highfield were also in the goals in Division Two as they won 8-0 against Locomotive to boost their title credentials.

James Standen, Darrell Statham and Lloyd Dehara netted two each, with Toby Hawkins and Dan Taylor also on target.

In the only other game in the division, goals from Ronnie Williams and Matt Carter kept Market Hotel Reserves in the promotion shake-up as they beat Churchill Royals 2-1.

Wye Monarchs took advantage playing in the only Division Three match to go ahead by extending their lead at the top with a 5-2 win against Brabourne.

It was a similar story in Division Four as Ashford Victoria tightened their grip on the title with a 2-1 win against Park Farm Rangers.

yourashford

SPORT IN BRIEF

Rivals just can't compete with in-form champions

KENT & Sussex Regional Hockey League champions Ashford men's 1st XI finished the season with a win over their nearest rivals.

Worthing have been the team closest to Ashford throughout the campaign, but they were beaten 4-2 at home by the champions.

The final league table shows Ashford at the top with 19 victories and one defeat. They have ended the season 14 points clear of Worthing.

The side will now start preparing for next season in the South Hockey League.

Spartans standing in the way of push to safety

KENNINGTON have boosted their chances of Kent County Division One survival after a 2-0 victory against fellow strugglers Staplehurst & Monarchs United.

The victory closed the gap to safety to just three points but the side above Kennington, Lydd Town, have two games in hand.

However, the team in the relegation zone face league leaders Bly Spartans this Saturday. With only one defeat all season for Bly, the encounter will be a tall order for Kennington.

Rugby ladies aiming for six wins on the bounce

ASHFORD Ladies rugby team have recorded five consecutive league victories following their 28-0 thrashing of New Ash Green.

The ladies have not tasted defeat since December 9, when they fell to Beckenham after conceding just one try.

The victory has moved Ashford up to fourth in the Women's South East Two division, just two points adrift of second-placed Canterbury.

Ashford have the chance to record six consecutive wins against league leaders Romford & Gideap this Saturday.

Struggling Green suffer at hands of the weather

A WATERLOGGED pitch caused Bromley Green's match between Fleet Leisure to be called off on Saturday.

Green are only five points clear of the relegation zone in the Kent County League Premier Division and need a few more points to secure their league status.

This Saturday, Bromley Green take on Crookenhill who are a place below.

A win could extend the gap between them and the relegation zone to eight points.



Picture: GOR KUPCO

CHAMPIONS: Bethersden (in white) lifted the Premier Division title by thrashing Ashford Cavaliers in the final at the weekend

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Golfer Dani Masters talks about her preparations for the new season



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